

THIS REVISED CHAPTER WAS APPROVED BY THE  
WAUKESHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON MARCH 23, 2004

NOTE: Pages 439-a through 439-cc replace the original text of Chapter XIII on pages 439 through 491 of this document. All maps and tables in the original chapter are still valid.

## Chapter XIII

### PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

#### INTRODUCTION

The recommended new park and open space plan for Waukesha County is presented in this chapter. The new plan consists of both an area wide outdoor recreation element and an open space preservation element, intended to provide, respectively, resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities and the protection of areas containing important natural resources. The plan is intended to assist the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use-Parks System Division in attaining their vision. The vision is to be a natural resource based park system which demonstrates environmental stewardship while providing recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities.

It is intended that the County park and open space plan meet State planning requirements for the State outdoor recreation aids program, thereby making the County eligible to apply for, and receive, available State and Federal funds to assist in the acquisition and development of recommended park and open space sites and facilities. To this end, recommendations regarding implementation responsibilities and plan implementation costs for County park and open space sites are included in this chapter.

Sites and facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities are typically provided by city, village, and urban town units of government and are therefore not specifically addressed in this plan. Recommendations for the provision of local park sites and facilities should be identified through the preparation, within the framework of the County plan, of local park and open space plans by the individual communities concerned. Accordingly, it is not intended that the County plan serve as the park and open space plan for the individual urban local units of government within the County. The County plan should, however, assist rural towns that adopt the County

plan to qualify for available Federal and State grant-in-aid in support of the development of town park and associated recreation facilities.

The plan outlines the park and open space facilities needed to serve the resident County population anticipated under full development of the County land use plan. The plan also presents recommendations related to park and open space facilities that would be needed to serve the resident population of the County anticipated under the year 2010 stage of the County land use plan. The plan is sufficiently detailed to provide a sound basis for short-term planning and programming by the responsible County officials.

Inventory data needed for the preparation of the park and open space plan are provided in earlier chapters of this report. Such data include historic and existing resident population and household levels, presented in Chapter II; projected resident population and household levels, presented in Chapter VIII; the existing land use pattern, presented in Chapter IV; the planned land use pattern, presented in Chapter X; and the location and extent of environmental corridors, natural areas, floodlands, and other important natural resources and natural resource-related elements, presented in Chapter III. These data were carefully considered and used in the preparation of the park and open space plan documented in this chapter.

#### Regional Park and Open Space Plan

The first park and open space plan for Waukesha County was an integral part of the first regional park and open space plan,<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and

---

<sup>1</sup>See *SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for South-eastern Wisconsin: 1977.*



recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of a network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including the Kettle Moraine area of Waukesha County and the riverine areas of the Fox River and its major tributaries. The regional park and open space plan further recommended that primary environmental corridors and prime agricultural lands be preserved in order to sustain the natural resource base and the environmental quality of the Region.

#### Year 2000 Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan

In 1984, the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open space plan as it applied to Waukesha County. The resulting plan is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 137, A Park and Open Space Plan for Waukesha County, December 1989. That plan, which has a design year of 2000, was adopted by the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors on February 20, 1990, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 7, 1990. The year 2000 plan is graphically summarized on Map 67 in Chapter VI of this report.

The year 2000 County park and open space plan recommends the acquisition of four additional park sites by Waukesha County; the expansion of five existing County parks; and continued development of eight other County parks for such resource-oriented recreational uses as swimming, golfing, picnicking, and hiking. The plan recommends the protection of primary environmental corridors and, more specifically, that the County acquire primary environmental corridors lying adjacent to the rivers and major streams in the County. The plan recommends the development of 11 recreational trails within the County and the development of four lake-access sites and two canoe-access points on the Fox River. The plan also contained recommendations for acquisition of additional natural areas by the Department of Natural Resources. A summary of the implementation status of the year 2000 plan is provided in Table 148.

## EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

### Waukesha County Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

In 1995, the Waukesha County park system consisted of 35 sites,<sup>2</sup> encompassing about 5,920 acres, or about 1.6 percent of the total area of the County. The 35 County sites include 12 major parks,<sup>3</sup> encompassing about 3,675 acres; seven other park or open space sites, encompassing about 440 acres; 11 parkway sites, encompassing about 1,410 acres;<sup>4</sup> two lake-access sites, encompassing about 20 acres; and three County recreation trails, encompassing about 375 acres.<sup>5</sup> Together, lands under easement or lease agreement with the County for open space or recreational trail purposes accounted for 289 acres, or 5 percent, of the 5,920 acres of County park and open space lands.

County park and open space sites owned in 1995, other than trails, are shown on Map 97. Trails are shown on Map 98. County park and open space sites are listed on Table 149.

Major County Parks: Major county parks are well distributed throughout the County and provide a variety of outdoor recreation facilities. Selected

---

<sup>2</sup>The County also owns the grounds of the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha campus. The site, which is operated by the State of Wisconsin, currently provides facilities for certain nonresource-oriented recreational activities, specifically, tennis and soccer.

<sup>3</sup>Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for such resource-oriented activities as camping, golfing, picnicking, and swimming. Major parks include both Type I, or regional parks, with an area of 250 acres or more, and Type II, or multi-community parks, with an area of between 100 and 250 acres.

<sup>4</sup>Includes about 1,245 acres owned by Waukesha County and about 165 acres under conservation easement to Waukesha County.

<sup>5</sup>Of the three County trails, one, the Bugline trail, is located on right-of-way owned by the County, and two, the Lake Country and New Berlin trails, are located on Wisconsin Electric Power Company rights-of-way leased to the County for trail purposes. The Bugline trail right-of-way and adjacent County-owned parcels encompass about 250 acres. The rights-of-way under lease agreement for the Lake Country and New Berlin trails encompass about 53 acres and 73 acres, respectively.

outdoor recreation facilities within the 12 major parks owned by Waukesha County in 1995 are listed in Table 150. Four of the major parks have not been developed at this time. As indicated in that table, major parks within the County system currently provide five swimming beaches, four campgrounds, two indoor ice arenas,<sup>6</sup> and two 18-hole regulation golf courses.<sup>7</sup> In addition, designated picnic areas are provided at six parks and various playfield facilities at six parks. The County also provides opportunities for such trail-oriented activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, and nature study throughout the County park system.

**Other County Park and Open Space Sites:** In addition to the 12 major parks owned by the County, seven other sites, not including boat-access sites, parcels within parkways, or trails, were owned by Waukesha County in 1995 (see Map 97). These sites include Eble Park, Moor Downs Golf Course, Smith Park, the Waukesha County Expo Center, two scattered wetlands, and one undeveloped County-owned parcel. Facilities provided at these sites include an indoor ice-skating rink at Eble Park; a nine-hole golf course at Moor Downs; and an exhibit hall, horse arena, and fairgrounds at the Expo Center. The remaining sites are currently undeveloped.

**Boat-Access Sites:** The County owns four boat-access sites. Two sites, providing boat access to Nagawicka Lake and Pewaukee Lake, are within Naga-Waukee County Park. The County also owns public boat-access sites on Nemahbin Lake and on School Section Lake. All sites include boat access and associated parking. The County also operates the Ashippun Lake boat-access site, which is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

**Parkways:** Primary environmental corridors along rivers and streams are often referred to as "parkways" or "greenways." The County park and open space plan defines a "parkway" as a linear area of publicly owned land, usually lying along a stream, which encompasses important natural resources. Parkways are ideally suited for the location of recreational trails because of their relatively long, linear nature. The natural resources which form

the corridors also make such corridors attractive settings for recreational trails.

As shown on Map 97, Waukesha County owns lands, or holds natural resource conservation easements over lands, adjacent to 11 major rivers and streams within the County, including the Ashippun River, Bark River, Fox River, Menomonee River, Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Oconomowoc River, Pebble Brook, Pewaukee River, Scuppernong Creek, and Spring Creek.

**Trails:** The County has developed three off-street hiking and bicycling trails, shown on Map 98. The Bugline Trail extends about 12 miles over a County-owned right-of-way, the right-of-way of a former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad line, from STH 175 in the Village of Menomonee Falls to CTH VV in the Village of Merton.

The New Berlin Trail extends about six miles across the City of New Berlin over a Wisconsin Electric Power Company power transmission line right-of-way, the right-of-way of a former TMER&L (The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co.) interurban electric railway line. The New Berlin Trail connects with the Milwaukee County '76 Trail at Greenfield Park in the City of West Allis and is proposed to be extended approximately 1.5 miles in 1996 to connect with Lincoln Avenue in the City of Waukesha.

The Lake Country Trail extends about eight miles over an electric power line transmission and former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, from the northwestern corporate limit of the City of Waukesha to the western corporate limit of the City of Delafield. The trail is planned to be extended eventually for an additional seven miles to the City of Oconomowoc, for a total length of about 15 miles.

#### State-Owned Park and Open Space Sites

As indicated in Table 151 and shown on Maps 98 and 99, in 1995 there were 37 State-owned park and open space sites in Waukesha County, encompassing about 15,580 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 37 sites, 29 sites, encompassing about 15,109 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; six sites, encompassing about 370 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and two sites, encompassing about 101 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin.

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has

<sup>6</sup>The indoor ice arena is located in Naga-Waukee Park. A second indoor ice arena is located at the County's Eble Park.

<sup>7</sup>The County also owns and operates a nine-hole golf course at Moor Downs.

acquired large areas of park and open space lands in Waukesha County. These sites were generally acquired for natural resource preservation purposes. Major park sites owned by the Department include the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and Pine Woods Campground, both of which are located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The Department also owns one special regional recreational site, Old World Wisconsin, which is also located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. In addition, the Department owns 16 open space sites, eight boat-access sites, and two trails.

The Glacial Drumlin State Trail is a hiking and bicycling trail located in part in western Waukesha County. The trail is located on the abandoned Chicago & North Western Railway right-of-way and extends approximately 48 miles from the City of Waukesha on the east to the Village of Cottage Grove in Dane County on the west, with 16 miles located within Waukesha County. The City of Waukesha has moved the former eastern terminus of the trail one additional mile eastward, into the central area of the City.

The Department, in cooperation with the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation and a variety of other private organizations and governmental agencies, has also participated in the land acquisition and development of that portion of the Ice Age Trail within Waukesha County. The Ice Age Trail, which is planned to extend approximately 1,000 miles across the State of Wisconsin following the terminus of the most recent glaciation, was designated as a National Scenic Trail by the United States Congress in 1980. About 29 miles of the proposed 38-mile length of the trail within Waukesha County was completed by the end of 1995. It should be noted that, unlike the Glacial Drumlin Trail and the trails developed by Waukesha County, the Ice Age Trail is primarily a hiking trail and does not permit bicycling or horseback riding.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation: The Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 1995 owned one wayside and five wetland mitigation sites within the County. The mitigation sites are being restored or enhanced as wetlands or, in upland portions of the sites, as prairies. Four of the sites are located within, or adjacent to, primary environmental corridors and one is located adjacent to a secondary environmental corridor. In each case, restoration or creation of wetland or prairie

vegetation is expected to result in an expansion of the corridor to include the mitigation sites.

University of Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin owned two open space sites within the County in 1995: Reuss Woods, encompassing about five acres, located in the Village of Chenequa, and the Waterville Field Station, encompassing about 96 acres, located in the Town of Ottawa. Both the Ice Age Trail and the Glacial Drumlin Trail traverse the Field Station.

#### Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

A comprehensive inventory of natural areas within the County was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 1994 as part of the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan being prepared by the Commission. The inventory systematically identified all remaining high-quality natural areas and critical species habitat then existing within the Region. The natural area and critical species habitat sites are shown on Map 29 and in Table 40 in Chapter III of this report.

Natural areas were classified based upon the natural area classification system developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Three classification categories are used: NA-1, natural areas of Statewide or greater significance, which contain nearly complete and relatively undisturbed plant and animal communities which are believed to resemble closely those of pre-settlement times; NA-2, natural areas of countywide or regional significance, which contain native biotic communities judged to be of lower than NA-1 significance, either because of evidence of a limited amount of human disturbance or because of limited size; and NA-3, natural areas of local significance, which have been substantially altered by human activities, but which provide refuge for native plant and animal species that no longer exist in the surrounding area because of land uses and associated activities.

A total of 105 natural areas, encompassing about 13,710 acres, or about 4 percent of the County, were identified by the Regional Planning Commission in Waukesha County in 1994. Of the 105 identified sites, nine were classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 1,775 acres, 30 were classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 4,890 acres, and 66 were classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 7,045 acres.

The inventory also identified a total of 77 critical species habitat sites within Waukesha County, including 22 critical bird habitat sites, one critical



mammal habitat site, and 54 critical plant habitat sites. Of the total sites, 12 critical bird habitat sites, one critical mammal habitat site, and 23 critical plant habitat sites were located outside an identified natural area, for a total of 36 critical species habitat sites located outside natural areas.

#### Boat-Access Sites

Boat-access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recreation activities, including motorboating, waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, and fishing. Table 152 provides a list of major lakes in the County and indicates those lakes with publicly owned boat-access sites and lakes with access sites that are owned privately, but which are open to the general public and meet the Department of Natural Resource standards for provision of public boat access. As of the end of 1995, publicly owned access sites were provided at 22, or about 69 percent, of the 32 major lakes within the County. Privately owned access sites open to the public were also provided at six lakes, although Big Muskego Lake is the only lake where no public access is provided in addition to the private access.<sup>8</sup> No public access, by either a public site or a private site open to the public, was available in 1995 at the following nine major lakes:<sup>9</sup> Crooked Lake, Hunters Lake, Lake Keesus, Lower Nashotah Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond. Developed access sites on the Fox River were limited to boat ramps and adjacent parking facilities in Frame Park in the City of Waukesha and Riverside Park in the Village of Big Bend.

#### Private and Other Public Park and Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites

In addition to the County and State-owned park and open space sites in Waukesha County, in 1995 there were a total of 369 sites owned by city, village, and town governments and school districts, encompassing a total of about 6,720 acres, or about 1.8 percent of the total area of the County. There were an additional five sites, encompassing about 845 acres, owned by nonprofit conservation organizations and 70 privately owned resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites, encompassing about 6,493

acres. These 75 sites combined encompassed about 7,338 acres, or about 2.0 percent of the total area of the County. These sites are listed and mapped in Appendix G of this report.

It should be noted that in 1995 there were three park sites owned by local governments within the County which meet the criteria for major park sites. These three sites include Mitchell Park in the City of Brookfield, a 533-acre undeveloped park;<sup>10</sup> Wirth Park, also in the City of Brookfield, a 147-acre park encompassing wetlands and a portion of Underwood Creek, as well a nature trail, toboggan hill, swimming pool, and a number of other facilities for intensive recreation; and the New Berlin Hills Golf Course in the City of New Berlin, a 183-acre site providing an 18-hole regulation golf course and associated facilities.

#### OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

The Regional Planning Commission, as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a set of park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives. These park and open space objectives were adapted for use in the development of this park and open space plan for Waukesha County and are set forth below. To achieve the vision of the Parks System Division the objectives described below need to be met. They will be met through a combination of State, County, or local municipality efforts.

1. To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which will afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.

County Parks fit into this integrated system as regional and multi community parks (Type I and Type II). The county, when possible, combines the regional and multi-community park activities within one location to serve the community in an economical way. These parks

<sup>8</sup>The City of Muskego is currently developing a public boat access to Big Muskego Lake, expected to open in late 1996.

<sup>9</sup>Access sites have been acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but not yet developed, on Hunters Lake and Lake Keesus.

<sup>10</sup>As described later in this chapter, Waukesha County will be acquiring the 173-acre portion of Mitchell Park lying west of Barker Road from the City of Brookfield for development as a new County park. The new park will be known as Fox Brook Park.

then strive to meet a minimum acreage of 250 acres and service radius of four miles. Four miles service radius is the standard used when the area is urban. Waukesha County uses this because at buildout about three fourths of the county will be urban. These are the more stringent standards of the regional standards presented in Table G-2. Examples of typical facilities at regional and multi-community parks are: campsite, swimming beach, picnic area, golf course, ski hill, hiking and cross country ski trails, boat launch, nature study area, and play field area.

The County is the main provider of these parks, however, the State may also provide these types of parks and facilities. Regional standards (Table G-2) suggest a combined minimum of 7.9 acres of these types of parks for each 1000 people in the County.

2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities. These types of facilities are activity specific such as tennis, baseball, basketball, and playgrounds. This objective is intended to be met by the local municipalities. The County may encourage the local municipalities to meet this objective but have no out right responsibility for the provision of these facilities. The detailed standard is listed in Table G-2.
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities. These types of facilities are dependant on the land as a resource for their functioning. Examples are: camping, golf, picnicking, down hill skiing, beach swimming. The County is the primary provider of these facilities, but State and private interests also provide these facilities. The detailed standard is listed in Table G-2.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities. These facilities are also land dependant but they are dispersed across large land areas. Examples are trails for: bicycling, hiking, ski touring, horseback riding, nature

study/education, snowmobiling and pleasure driving. The State, County and local municipalities work together to provide these types of facilities.

5. To provide sufficient surface water-access areas to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality. These facilities are adjacent to rivers or lakes and include boat launches for motor boats and carry in boats. The State is mainly responsible for providing these facilities although the County and local municipalities provide some as well.
6. To preserve sufficient lands in essentially natural, open uses to assure the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, including surface-water and groundwater resources, and the enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County. All levels of government participate in meeting this objective. The main lands targeted for preservation are environmental corridors.
7. To provide for the efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs, meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost. All levels of government strive to achieve their part of the plan in an efficient and economical way.

Complementing each of the foregoing objectives is a planning principle and a set of planning standards. Each of these objectives, together with its supporting principle and standard, is set forth on Table G-2 in Appendix G. Each set of standards serves to facilitate the quantitative application of the objective in plan design and evaluation.

It should be noted that, while the attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide the residents of the County with needed opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among the various levels, units, and agencies of government. Under the adopted regional park and open space plan and the new County plan presented herein, the responsibility for the provision of large resource-oriented parks, resource-oriented recreational facilities, and recreation trails is dele-



gated to the State and County levels of government, while the responsibility for the provision of smaller community and neighborhood parks and associated intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated to local units of government. The protection of important natural resource features, including primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, is considered the responsibility of all levels of government.

Adding to the diversity of opportunities provided by the County parks system are indoor recreation and cultural facilities. The Eble and Naga-Waukees Ice Arenas, Waukesha County Museum and Waukesha County Exposition Center are indoor facilities provided by the County. The ice arenas provide quality ice skating for the general public at a reasonable price. The Exposition Center provides a space for public and private events and activities thus promoting recreation, education, and entertainment, and provides an economic stimulus for Waukesha County businesses. The museum displays historical information and artifacts from around the County, providing residents and visitors information about the area. These facilities provide the space and opportunity for activities of countywide interest.

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

### Outdoor Recreation Sites and Facilities

The park and open space objectives herein presented are concerned with the provision of adequate outdoor recreation sites and facilities to serve the resident population of the County. The accompanying standards, as set forth in Table G-2 in Appendix G of this report, specify the quantity and spatial distribution of such sites.

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks set forth in Appendix G to the anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County and comparing the probable future demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities.

Two types of standards, per capita and service radius standards, are used to help estimate the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County. The per capita standards are intended to help estimate the total number of acres

of land needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land based on the anticipated future resident population of the County. The service radius standards are intended to insure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. It should be recognized that, in some situations, while per capita standards may be met, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing facility to some residents of the County.

The existing and probable future population levels and distribution within the County are important determinants of future outdoor recreation needs. As indicated in Chapter X of this report, the anticipated resident population under full development of the recommended County land use plan is 552,000 persons. The anticipated resident population level by the year 2010 is 384,800 persons.

In addition to information on the overall size of the anticipated future population of the County, information on future population distribution is important to a determination of existing and probable future outdoor recreation needs. The regional park and outdoor recreation standards call for a major park to be provided within four miles of residents of urban areas and within 10 miles of residents of rural areas. Historically Waukesha County has used a standard of providing a major park within five miles of each County resident. At the anticipated buildout roughly three quarters of the county will be urban. The county will thus use the four-mile radius standard across the entire county. The land use plan under buildout conditions, graphically summarized by Map 87 in Chapter X, and the areas assumed to be provided with centralized public sanitary sewer, graphically summarized by Map 89 in Chapter X, served as the basis for the identification of the location and extent of planned urban areas within the County.

### Standards for Major Parks and Associated Facilities

Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Table G-2 in Appendix G. Application of the service area standards indicates that most areas of the County are within the recommended service area of a major park, with the exception of the Oconomowoc area. There is a need for major park sites to serve both the Town of Oconomowoc and the western portion of the Town of Summit. It should be noted, however, that the western portion of the Town of Summit is

largely wetlands and it is therefore unlikely to be developed for residential use.

Application of the per capita standards for developed areas of major park sites to the anticipated County population levels for both the year 2010 and under buildout conditions indicates that the County currently has an adequate amount of major park land to serve existing residents<sup>11</sup> but is in need of acquiring more land for the anticipated population of 2010 and buildout. By comparing only the areas developed in the parks (approximately 30 percent of each park) this gross calculation takes into account that each site must contain sufficient developable land, that is, areas with suitable soils and slopes, to accommodate needed recreational facilities and activities and that much of the area within existing major parks consists of lands which should not be developed for intensive recreational use because of their natural resource characteristics. The County, on the average develops 30 percent of the land within a major park. The remaining 70 percent is preserved as a buffer in natural condition around the activity area. Some facilities such as golf courses will be more intensively developed.

---

<sup>11</sup>The calculation was based on the number and acreage of existing major Waukesha County-owned parks: Fox Bend Park, Fox River Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Monches Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Naga-Waukeee Park, Nashotah Park, Retzer Nature Center, Ryan Park, and Wanaki Golf Course; three major parks owned by the State of Wisconsin: the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and the Pine Woods Family Campground in the Southern Unit of the Moraine State Forest, and the Lapham Peak Unit of the Moraine State Forest; and two major parks owned by local governments: the New Berlin Hills Golf Course, owned by the City of New Berlin, and Wirth Park, owned by the City of Brookfield.

The standards in Objective No. 3<sup>12</sup> set forth per capita and service area standards for the provision of such resource-oriented recreational facilities as camping, golfing, picnicking, downhill skiing, and beach swimming. The standards under Objective No. 3 were applied to the anticipated County population levels for both the year 2010 and under land use plan buildout conditions, with the following results:

**Campsites:** The analysis revealed there are an adequate number of campsites provided at existing County and State parks to fulfill the need for publicly owned campsites under the standard for both the anticipated 2010 and the buildout population. The number of privately owned sites, however, is drastically lower than the number called for under the standard, with only one privately owned campground within the County open to the public. Accordingly, it may be necessary for the public sector to provide additional campsites to compensate for the lack of private campgrounds in the County.

**Golf Courses:** There are currently three publicly owned 18-hole regulation golf courses within the County: two at County-owned sites—the Naga-Waukeee Park Golf Course and Wanaki Golf Course, and one—the New Berlin Hills Golf Course—owned by the City of New Berlin. In addition, there are 17 privately owned 18-hole regulation golf courses within the County; of these, 11 are open to the public and six are open to members only.

Application of the standard for golf courses indicates a need for a total of five publicly owned 18-hole regulation golf courses in the County by the year 2010 and a total of six publicly owned courses to serve the anticipated buildout population. This indicates a need for two additional public courses by the year 2010 and one additional course, beyond the year 2010, to serve the buildout population. The need for privately owned courses to serve both the anticipated design year 2010 population and the buildout population, 10 and 14 courses, respectively, is met by the 17 private courses existing within the County in 1996, with an excess which would provide a margin of capacity in the event some of the existing private courses are converted to other uses during the plan design period.

---

<sup>12</sup>Standards set forth under Objective No. 2 relate to the provision of facilities for nonresource-oriented recreational facilities, which are the responsibility of city, village, and town governments. Such facilities are addressed later in this chapter.



**Picnicking:** Application of the standard for picnicking facilities indicated that the County is currently well served by existing picnic facilities; however, picnic facilities should be provided at new and developing park sites to ensure that County residents will continue to be well served under 2010 and buildout conditions.

**Downhill Skiing:** Application of the standard for downhill skiing indicates that the need for private downhill skiing facilities is filled at the one existing facility at Sunspree, formerly Olympia, resort. Application of the standard also indicates a need for a publicly owned downhill skiing facility within the County; however, no such facility currently exists within the County.

**Swimming Beaches:** Application of the standard for swimming beaches indicates that the current number and location of such beaches is adequate to serve the anticipated year 2010 population; one additional public swimming beach will be needed to serve the anticipated buildout population.

#### **Standards for Trail Facilities**

Objective No. 4 sets forth recommended per capita and locational standards for trail activities, including bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Table 153 indicates the number of miles of each type of trail called for under the standards to serve the anticipated year 2010 and buildout populations, as well as the number of miles of each type of trail currently provided within the County.

As shown in Table 153, on the basis of the existing standards, there is an adequate supply of hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling trails within the County to serve both the 2010 and buildout population. A need exists for additional bicycling trails to serve both the year 2010 and the buildout population.

#### **Standards for Boat-Access Sites**

Objective No. 5 calls for the provision of sufficient surface water-access sites to afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in water-related outdoor recreation activities, including boating, canoeing, and fishing, consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality. Table 152 lists the major lakes within the County and indicates those lakes to which public access is provided. Major

lakes currently lacking such access in 1995 include: Big Muskego Lake, Crooked Lake, Hunters Lake, Lake Keesus, Lower Nashotah Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond. It should be noted that public access sites have been acquired, but not yet developed, on Big Muskego Lake, Hunters Lake, and Lake Keesus.

#### **Standards for Open Space Preservation**

Objective No. 6 calls for the preservation of sufficient high-quality open space lands for the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. The regional land use plan and the land use element of this County Development Plan recommend that areas containing important natural resources, particularly those within the primary environmental corridors, be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses through a combination of public land acquisition and land use regulation. The preservation of such lands is based upon the location and composition of existing natural resources, rather than the application of development standards. It is recommended that these lands be preserved in order to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the County, as well as to provide valuable recreation opportunities for residents.

### **RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

#### **Recommended Open Space Preservation Element**

The open space preservation element of the park and open space plan consists of three major components: preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and parkways associated with the primary environmental corridors; preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites; and protection of open space lands located within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries for the Lulu Lake Natural Area, the Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area.

Recommended actions with respect to the preservation of open space lands are graphically summarized on Map 100. It is recommended that a total of 97,314 acres, or about 152 square miles, of open space lands be protected through a combination of

public and public-interest ownership<sup>13</sup> or through the application of protective zoning. These 97,314 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and areas outside corridors but within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries. All natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas. It should be noted that the acreages in this section exclude areas of surface water within corridors.

Of the total 97,314 acres of recommended open space lands, 24,764 acres, or about 25 percent, were in public ownership, public-interest ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 1995 and are recommended to be preserved in current ownership. It is recommended that an additional 32,448 acres, or about 33 percent of proposed open space lands, including about 852 acres within proposed new or expanded major County park sites, be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The estimated cost of acquiring such lands is about \$77 million. A summary of the existing and proposed public and public-interest ownership of open space lands and associated acquisition costs is presented in Table 154. Additional information regarding the composition of such lands is provided in Table G-3 in Appendix G of this report.

The remaining 40,102 acres of open space lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, conservancy, and, for upland portions of the corridor outside areas of steep slopes, rural residential zoning with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres. However, should such open space lands, particularly lands within primary environmental corridors, become available for acquisition and use for public open space purposes, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

---

<sup>13</sup>Public ownership includes lands owned by the Federal, State, County, or local unit of government; school districts; and lake or sanitary districts. Public-interest ownership includes lands owned by such nonprofit conservation organizations as The Nature Conservancy, Waukesha Land Conservancy, or the Izaak Walton League.

Primary Environmental Corridors: The primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, lakes and streams, and associated shoreland and floodland areas in the County. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by urban development, thereby preserving such lands in essentially natural, open uses for resource protection, scenic value, and outdoor recreation and education purposes, is one of the primary objectives of this park and open space plan. The planned extent and location of primary environmental corridors, as recommended by the land use element of this Waukesha County development plan, are shown on Map 87. A total of about 120.8 square miles of land, or approximately 21 percent of the total area of the County, is encompassed in the delineated primary environmental corridors.

The permanent preservation of the primary environmental corridors is most certain when the corridor lands are acquired in the public interest for resource preservation and compatible outdoor recreation uses. It is therefore recommended that primary environmental corridors in areas that have been developed, or are planned to be developed, for urban use; that contain natural area sites or critical species habitat sites; or that are needed to accommodate parks or trail facilities proposed under the recommended outdoor recreation plan element described later in this chapter be acquired and maintained in public or public-interest ownership or maintained in compatible nonpublic recreation or open space use. In areas of the County outside a planned urban area, as identified in the land use element of this County development plan, primary environmental corridors should be acquired if they contain a natural area or critical species habitat site or are needed for future public park or trail development. Other primary environmental corridor lands should be protected through appropriate zoning.

Map 100 depicts those primary environmental corridors which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or public-interest ownership. Such areas in 1995 encompassed a total of 32.8 square miles, or about 27 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. Additional such areas recommended for public acquisition, also shown on Map 100, encompass a total of 42.0 square miles, or about 35 percent of the planned primary environmental corridors. A summary of the existing and proposed public and public-interest ownership



of primary environmental corridors and associated acquisition costs is included in Table 154.

The remaining 46.0 square miles of planned primary environmental corridors, or about 38 percent of such lands, are proposed to be protected through application of appropriate zoning districts and such other public land use regulation as official mapping and land subdivision control ordinances. The appropriate zoning district for primary environmental corridor lands will depend upon the type and character of the natural resource features to be preserved and protected. All lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and associated undeveloped floodlands and shorelands generally should be placed in lowland conservancy or floodland protection zoning districts. Upland wooded areas and areas of steep slope, 12 percent or more, generally should be placed in appropriate upland conservancy, rural-density residential, or park and recreational zoning districts. Placing the primary environmental corridors in these zoning districts would generally promote the preservation of such corridors in essentially natural, open uses.

While calling for the preservation of primary environmental corridor lands, the plan recognizes that certain transportation and utility facilities may out of necessity have to be accommodated within such corridors. The plan also recognizes that certain primary environmental corridor lands provide highly desirable settings for residential and recreational development and that certain limited residential and recreational uses may be accommodated in the corridors without jeopardizing the overall integrity of the corridors. The major types of development which may be accommodated within the various component natural resource features of the environmental corridors are indicated on Table 155.

It should further be noted that cluster residential development is encouraged as an alternative to conventional subdivisions at rural residential densities, particularly when such development is proposed to occur within, or adjacent to, the primary environmental corridor. Clustering of housing units allows greater flexibility in the design of residential development by allowing building lot sizes to be reduced below those normally required by the underlying zoning district in order to concentrate the dwellings in a smaller portion of the parcel being developed. The residual land gained by using the smaller building lot size is left in open space and is protected from future development through deed restrictions or by other means. Open space

within the cluster development provides common areas for recreational use by property owners in the development; clustering ideally would exclude development in wetlands, floodplains, on steep slopes, in drainageways, and in other areas that should not be developed because of physical or environmental constraints.

Greenways: Primary environmental corridors in urban or urbanizing areas in Southeastern Wisconsin that are held in public ownership are often termed "Greenways." Greenways (also referred to as "parkways") are generally located along a stream or river, ridge line, or other linear natural feature and are intended to provide aesthetic and natural resource continuity. Greenways often serve as ideal locations for trail facilities. It is recommended that the County acquire land and establish Greenways along the following eight major streams: the Bark River, Fox River, Menomonee River, Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Oconomowoc River, Pebble Brook, and Pewaukee River. Costs for acquisition of greenway lands are included with the cost of acquiring primary environmental corridors in Table 154. Map 102 shows the general locations of the greenways. Greenways and related trails need to be defined in the field at the time of development proposals.

The vision of the Waukesha County Greenway Project is to create a system of linear corridors along the County's major rivers and streams, which will protect the high quality natural resource based elements, connect major State, County, and local parkland, as well as other community social and cultural amenities, and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

The Greenway corridor serves as a River/Streamway buffer to: 1) protect water quality by filtering and removing sedimentation, organic matter, pesticides and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow through deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification or other processes; 2) create, enhance and protect wildlife habitat and provide a corridor for the movement of a wide range of species; 3) protect and stabilize the riparian land and reduce flood water velocity; 4) protect high quality plant communities, including upland woods; and 5) provide nonmotorized trail opportunities.

A greenway cross-section was developed to ensure the preservation of the greenway corridors and guide the development of trails within the green-

ways, which will give people access to enjoy these areas. The Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use Parks division staff assembled a committee with representatives from the County Planning and Land Resources Divisions; WDNR; residents of the Town of Vernon; private not-for-profit organizations; the U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); SEWRPC; the Farm Bureau; and UW-Extension. This committee met 13 times over a two-year period to discuss standards and voice concerns regarding greenways. Park staff took into consideration the input generated by the committee and refined it to develop the Waukesha County Greenway Cross-Section. The cross-section, shown on Figure 108, is to be utilized as a tool to implement the development of the greenways.

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas: As already indicated in Chapter X of this report, it is recommended that secondary environmental corridors be considered for preservation in natural, open uses or incorporated as drainageways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trails, in developing areas. The plan also recommends that isolated natural resource areas be preserved in natural open uses insofar as practicable, incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations or stormwater detention or retention areas as appropriate. The plan further recommends that all secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas containing natural area sites be protected through public-interest ownership.

A total of about 6,918 acres of land are encompassed in the planned secondary environmental corridors and about 7,590 are encompassed in the planned isolated natural resource areas, a total of 14,508 acres. Map 100 depicts those secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or public-interest ownership. Such areas currently encompass a total of 930 acres, or about 6 percent of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. An additional 180 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 96 acres of isolated natural resource areas, totaling 276 acres, or 2 percent of all such areas, are in existing compatible outdoor recreation use, including such uses as golf courses and camps.

Additional secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas recommended for public acquisition are also shown on Map 100. Such

areas encompass a total of 2,631 acres, or about 18 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, including 1,908 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 723 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas. A summary of the existing and proposed public and public-interest ownership of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and associated acquisition costs, is presented in Table 154.

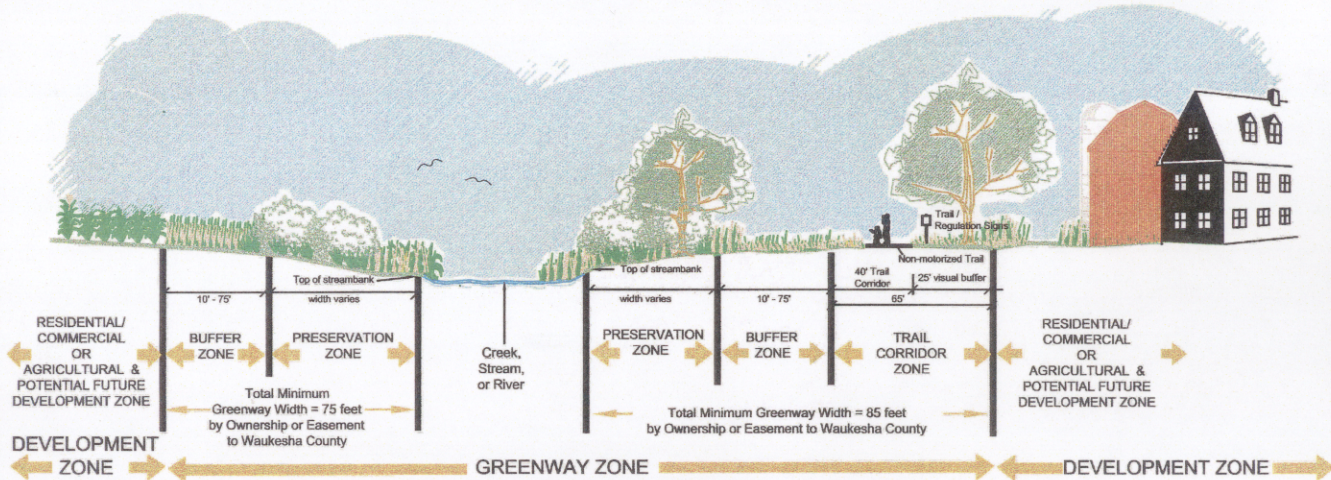
The remaining 10,671 acres, or 74 percent, of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are not anticipated to be needed for future park or trail development and do not encompass natural area sites. These areas may be retained in private ownership, but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban use. However, should such lands be needed for local park or recreation purposes or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention basins, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites: As noted earlier in this chapter, a total of 105 natural areas were identified in Waukesha County in 1994. Of the 105 natural area sites, nine were classified as NA-1 sites, 30 were classified as NA-2 sites, and 66 were classified as NA-3 sites. In addition, a total of 77 critical species habitat sites were identified, with 36 of these sites located outside a natural area.

It is recommended that all but two of the natural area sites within Waukesha County be preserved. Natural area sites to be preserved encompass about 13,670 acres in 103 sites. It is further recommended that those critical species habitat sites located within the primary environmental corridor, which encompass about 5,065 acres in 28 sites, also be preserved. To insure such preservation, it is recommended that all such critical species habitat sites and all natural areas be acquired by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Waukesha Land Conservancy, or the Izaak Walton League. Exceptions would be made only where lands within such sites have already been developed, which occurs in some instances where large-lot residential or outdoor recreational development has occurred in such a manner that the natural area or critical species habitat site has generally been protected. In these cases, it is recommended that the areas be protected from additional development either through protec-



# GREENWAY CORRIDOR TYPICAL CROSS-SECTION



The Greenway Corridor serves as a River/Streamway buffer to:

- Protect water quality by filtering and removing sediment, organic matter, pesticides and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow through deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification or other processes
- Create, enhance, and protect wildlife habitat and provide a corridor for the movement of a wide range of species
- Protect and stabilize the riparian lands and reduce flood water velocity
- Protect high quality plant communities, including upland woods.
- Provide non-motorized trail opportunities.

	PRESERVATION ZONE	BUFFER ZONE	TRAIL CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPMENT ZONE
<b>Purpose Resource-Based Protection</b>	■ To leave in as natural a state as possible by protecting water quality and the physical integrity of the creek/ stream/ river ecosystem and high quality plant communities including upland woods.	■ Provide distance between residential/commercial land or agricultural land and preservation corridor zone.	■ Provide non-motorized trail opportunities along greenway corridor with visual buffer from adjacent property owners.	■ Provide land for agricultural preservation or future development.
<b>Width</b>	■ <u>Varies based upon:</u> -Wetlands (SEWRPC) -A-rated vegetation***** -Critical Species Habitat (SEWRPC) -Natural Areas of Statewide significance (NA 1)  ■ <u>May include:</u> -Slopes >20% within or directly adjacent to river corridor. -Class I Wildlife Habitat***** -Floodplain* -Primary Environmental Corridor.	■ Minimum width of 10-75 feet from edge of preservation zone.  ■ <u>Varies based on:</u> RESOURCE FEATURES -NA 2 and NA 3 -Class I Wildlife*****  BUFFERS 25ft - Natural Areas (NA 1, NA 2, and NA 3) 25ft - Class I Wildlife Habitat***** 25ft - Critical Species Habitat 25ft - A-Rated Vegetation***** 25ft - Slopes 20% or greater 10-75ft - Wetlands (Varies based on quality)**** 50ft - Water Features **** (or 20 ft when adjacent use is Agricultural ***)  ■ <u>May include:</u> -Areas rated Severe for the development of paved trails. (Based on suitability criteria)	■ Width of trail corridor zone may vary based upon on-site location of trail.  <u>Trail location based upon:</u> - Minimizing disturbance to natural features of land - Ability of soils and slopes to support trail construction in a cost effective manner  ■ <u>NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL</u>  20 ft cross-section consisting of: 5 ft mowed shoulders 10 ft asphalt paved trail  ■ <u>VISUAL BUFFER</u>  25 ft visual buffer from trail shoulder to adjacent property.  May occur on adjacent property through easement/ agreement.	■ Varies with Zoning.
<b>Ecological Value/Target</b>	• Wetlands • A-rated Vegetation***** • Slopes > 20% • Natural Areas of Statewide significance (NA 1) • Critical Species Habitat • Class I Wildlife Habitat***** • Water quality protection based on the standards of NR151****, NRCS- sec. IV***and the Waukesha County Shoreland & Floodland Protection Ordinance.	• Mature riparian vegetation native to the southeastern Wisconsin region • Natural areas of Countywide and Local significance (NA 2, NA3) • May include: Floodplain*, Primary or Secondary Environmental Corridor, and B, C, D, E and F rated vegetation ***** • Class I Wildlife Habitat***** • Water quality protection based on the standards of NR151**** and NRCS- sec. IV*** and the Waukesha County Shoreland & Floodland Protection Ordinance.	• Floodplain*, Primary or Secondary Environmental Corridor, and B, C, D, E and F rated vegetation***** • Class II Wildlife Habitat or greater. Class I Wildlife Habitat or Critical Species areas will be evaluated on a case by case basis. • Slopes not exceeding 20% and preferably not on slopes exceeding 5% • Soils suitable for trail development. ■ <u>May occur within:</u> • Mature riparian vegetation native to the southeastern Wisconsin region • Natural Areas of Countywide and Local significance (NA 2, NA3)	• Farming in agriculture areas, • Primary Environmental Corridor in development areas (PEC Restrictions Apply).
<b>Uses</b>	■ <u>Allowable uses limited to:</u> - Stormwater channels***** - Signage - May include Non-Motorized Trail Linkage or continuation of trail.** - May include boardwalk for trail linkage. - Noxious weed control. - Firebreaks.  ■ All uses to follow Best Management Practices	■ <u>Allowable Uses:</u> - selective vegetation removal and noxious weed control - firebreaks - Stormwater retention/detention/ outfall structures  ■ <u>Restricted Uses:</u> - No buildings/structures	■ <u>Allowable Uses:</u> - Farming - Selective vegetation removal and noxious weed control - Firebreaks - Non-motorized Trails - Stormwater retention/detention/outfall structures - Boardwalk allowed for trail linkage - Signage - Maintenance vehicles  ■ <u>Restricted Uses:</u> - No buildings/structures  ■ All uses to follow Best Management Practices	■ As permitted by Zoning Regulations. May be Farming, Housing, Commercial, Park, Golf Course, Public Roadway.  ■ All uses to follow Best Management Practices

\* Flood way - as defined in the Waukesha County Shoreland Protection Ordinance and Waukesha County Greenway Definition of Terms.

\*\* Location of Non-motorized Trail with Greenway Corridor based upon site specific evaluation of site features and land-based suitability. Refer to Waukesha County Greenway Corridor Trail Guidelines.

\*\*\* NRCS standards are found in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide, published by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

\*\*\*\* NR 151 is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administrative code that defines minimum performance standards for runoff pollution control.

\*\*\*\*\* Paved channels are not considered compatible within the Preservation Zone.

\*\*\*\*\* Areas of A-Rated Vegetation and Class I Wildlife Habitat will be included as field verified on a site by site basis.

\*\*\*\*\* Vegetation rating based upon Waukesha County Parks vegetation rating system.



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use - Parks System Division

1320 Pewaukee Road, Room 230, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188  
 tele: 262-548-7790 fax: 262-896-8071

Prepared by: Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use - Parks System Division  
 Revised: 2/1/04



tive zoning or through conservation easements or management agreements between the landowner and public agencies or nonprofit conservation groups.

Map 101 shows the general location of natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the County recommended to be preserved through public acquisition. Table 156 lists each natural area site and critical species habitat site proposed to be preserved and the proposed acquisition agency. In all, the sites encompass about 18,735 acres. Of this total, about 10,850 acres, or about 58 percent of the total area of such sites, are under existing public or public-interest ownership, including about 7,330 acres within natural areas and about 3,520 acres within critical species habitat sites. An additional 7,885 acres, or about 42 percent, are proposed for public or public-interest ownership or management. All of these areas are encompassed by planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or by planned isolated natural resource areas. The cost of acquiring these areas is included in Table 154.

#### Department of Natural Resources Open Space Sites:

The outdoor preservation element of this County plan includes lands which have been acquired or which are proposed to be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources within the project boundaries of the Lulu Lake State Natural Area, the Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area. Project boundaries for each of these areas have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and are reflected on Map 100. It is recommended that the Department continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundaries<sup>14</sup> for open space or outdoor recreation purposes. Currently, the Department owns about 2,588 acres outside planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource

areas, but within the approved project boundaries. An additional 2,929 acres of such lands are proposed to be acquired at an estimated cost of about \$11.8 million. This cost is included in the State of Wisconsin acquisition cost shown on Table 154.

In addition to lands included within an approved Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundary, a report published in April 1996 by the Kettle Moraine Task Force of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters called for the creation by the Department of a Kettle Moraine conservancy area to protect those portions of the Kettle Moraine lying between the Northern and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, generally including the area between CTH C in the Town of Ottawa and Monches County Park in the Town of Merton. The report recommends the acquisition by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations of specified areas for resource protection and public recreation purposes, and the protection of remaining areas through a combination of zoning regulations, conservation easements, and oversight of land development activities by groups of landowners and residents termed "conservation communities" in the report. The report recommends that the Department assume overall responsibility for protection and management of the proposed conservancy area.

Implementation of this park and open space plan would serve to fulfill the recommendations of the Academy report in the following ways: 1) the recommended acquisition for resource protection and trail development purposes of the Bark River corridor from Monches Park south to the Glacial Drumlin Trail in the Town of Ottawa, 2) the recommended acquisition for resource protection and trail development purposes of a corridor from the Glacial Drumlin Trail south to the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest by way of Pretty Lake and School Section Lake, 3) recommended acquisition by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the proposed conservancy area, and 4) protection through zoning of other primary and secondary corridors and isolated natural resource areas within the proposed conservancy area.

#### Recommended Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites and Facilities

The outdoor recreation sites and trail facilities recommended under the County park and open space plan element are shown on Map 102. The sites and facilities proposed to be provided under the

---

<sup>14</sup>*Lands within the approved project boundaries have been identified by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board as an appropriate addition to adjacent State forests, natural areas, or wildlife areas and are intended to be acquired by the State for recreational or open space purposes. The landowners affected should be able to initiate desired action by offering to sell the land concerned to the State for a mutually acceptable price. If the State does not act within a reasonable amount of time, appropriate private development of the developable portion of the subject lands could proceed, consistent with the County plan recommendations.*

park and open space plan for Waukesha County include major parks and resource-oriented recreational facilities, parkways, trails, and boat-access facilities. Certain other State and County parks and facilities are also addressed, along with local parks and outdoor recreation sites and facilities. A description of the recommended sites and facilities follows.

**Major Parks:** Under the park and open space plan for Waukesha County, 19 major parks and one special regional outdoor recreational site would be provided. Of the 19 major parks 17 are existing parks and two would be new parks to be developed by Waukesha County.

Of the 17 existing major parks, 12 are owned by Waukesha County: Fox Bend Park, Fox River Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Monches Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Naga-Wauke Park, Nashotah Park, Retzer Nature Center, Ryan Park, and Wanaki Golf Course;<sup>15</sup> three are owned by the State of Wisconsin: the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and the Pine Woods Campground in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest; and two are owned by local governments: the New Berlin Hills Golf Course, owned by the City of New Berlin, and Wirth Park, owned by the City of Brookfield. The special regional outdoor recreational site is Old World Wisconsin, a site operated by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin but owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Under the plan, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Department of Natural Resources would continue to maintain the existing historic structures and cross-country ski trails at Old World Wisconsin and provide additional facilities in accordance with the master plan for the site. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would continue to maintain existing facilities at Lapham Peak, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area, and Pine Woods Campground and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation

activities as needed at these sites. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would also continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundaries for the Lulu Lake State Natural Area, the Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area. The Cities of Brookfield and New Berlin would continue to maintain existing outdoor recreation facilities at Wirth Park and New Berlin Hills Golf Course, respectively.

Waukesha County would be responsible for the provision of 14 major parks in the County. Of these major parks, two new parks would be acquired and developed by the County, including a new 500-acre park in the northwestern portion of the County, intended to serve the Oconomowoc area, and a new major park in the northwestern portion of the City of Brookfield, known as Fox Brook Park and intended to serve the north-central portion of the County.

Major recommendations for outdoor recreational facilities at the County parks include the development of a swimming beach at Fox Brook Park, development of canoe access sites on the Fox River at Fox Bend and Fox River Parks, and possible development of 18-hole regulation golf courses at Minooka and Mukwonago Parks and at the proposed new Oconomowoc-area park.

The development of future public golf courses should be based on demonstrated public need. Private daily-fee courses may be able to fill the need for public courses provided the private courses are comparable to existing publicly owned courses in terms of affordability and course quality. In addition, the need for public golf courses may be filled by public acquisition of privately owned courses if they are located in proximity to new golf course sites recommended by this plan. Should a privately owned golf course in the northwestern, southwestern, or south-central portion of the County become available for acquisition, the County should consider such acquisition.

Specific recommendations for each of the major County parks are presented below.

Recommendations for the new major park in the Oconomowoc area and for certain existing major parks call for the acquisition of additional park lands by the County for recreational and open space purposes. Such acquisitions are designated as "recreational" on the land use plan map presented in Chapter X of this report. As noted in Chapter X,

---

<sup>15</sup>Land acquisitions have not yet been completed for Fox Bend, Minooka, Monches, and Ryan Parks. Proposed additions to these parks are described later in this section. It should also be noted that four of these parks are not developed at this time. They are Fox Bend Park, Fox River Park, Monches Park, and Ryan Park.

the "recreational" designation on the land use plan indicates a need for additional park lands in the area so designated and further indicates that the site so designated is suitable for development as a park; however, actual acquisition of the site is accomplished through negotiations between a "willing buyer" and a "willing seller," that is, between the government agency involved and the property owner. If a sale agreement between the parties concerned cannot be reached within a reasonable amount of time and it is determined that such lands will not be purchased by the governmental agency concerned for public recreational or open space use the developable portion of the subject lands should be made available for private development, based on the development plan objectives, principles, and standards. The County, in cooperation with the local government concerned, should then identify an alternative suitable site for development of the recommended major park or park facilities.

1. **Fox Bend Park:** Under the plan, a new County park is proposed to be located along the main stem of the Fox River, in the Town of Vernon, west of the Village of Big Bend. To date, the County has acquired about 209 acres for the park, with another 180 acres proposed for acquisition. Proposed facility development at this site includes picnic areas, trails, a canoe launch to the Fox River, and support facilities. The proposed Fox River Trail would also extend through the site.
2. **Fox Brook Park:** This proposed County park is now part of Mitchell Park, owned by the City of Brookfield. As described in the following paragraph, the County is planning to acquire the 173-acre portion of Mitchell Park lying west of Barker Road (CTH Y) for development as a County park. The site, to be known as Fox Brook Park, is currently undeveloped for park use, but is the former site of a gravel quarry. The former quarry lake is proposed to be developed for swimming. Other recommended uses of the site include picnic areas, trails, and support facilities.

Under the adopted park and open space plan for the City of Brookfield<sup>16</sup> it was recommended that the City acquire and develop

Mitchell Park. At the time the City park plan was prepared, the City had acquired 533 acres of the recommended 813-acre site. The City plan noted that the proposed park site included lands within the proposed Fox River parkway, which the year 2000 County park plan had recommended be the responsibility of the County for acquisition and trail development. The City plan, therefore, recommended that the County consider assisting the City in the development of Mitchell Park. Subsequent to the adoption of the City park plan, the County agreed to acquire and develop that portion of Mitchell Park lying west of Barker Road, which in 1995 encompassed about 173 acres. The County is expected to purchase these lands in 1996 or 1997.

It is recommended that Waukesha County acquire an additional 157 acres of land on the west side of Barker Road, adjacent to the park site, for resource protection purposes.

3. **Fox River Park:** Fox River Park is a 207-acre park located along the main stem of the Fox River, in the northwest portion of the Town of Waukesha. Land for the park was acquired by the County in 1988 and 1989. Proposed facility development at the park includes a canoe launch to the Fox River, picnic areas, trails, and other resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities. The proposed Fox River Trail will also extend through the park.
4. **Menomonee Park:** Menomonee Park is a 397-acre park located in the northeastern portion of the County, in the Villages of Lannon and Menomonee Falls. This park provides family and group camping facilities, picnic areas, playfields, a swimming beach, trail facilities, and other outdoor recreation facilities. In addition, the Bugline Trail is located at the southeastern corner of the park. Under the plan, proposed facility development would include the provision of additional playfields, including additional ball diamonds and soccer fields; additional picnic areas; and additional park support facilities, including a shelter building, concessions, and road and parking lot improvements.
5. **Minooka Park:** Minooka Park is a 535-acre park located in the east-central portion of the County, in the Cities of New Berlin and Waukesha and the Town of Waukesha. Existing facilities at the park include a swim-

---

<sup>16</sup>See *SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 108, A Park and Open Space Plan for the City of Brookfield, August 1991*.

ming beach, picnic areas, a group camping area, playfields, trail facilities, and other outdoor recreation facilities. The park also encompasses a scientific and natural area site identified as having local significance. Minooka Park is located along the proposed Pebble Brook Parkway; existing trail facilities at the site would connect with the proposed Pebble Brook Trail. Minooka Park was expanded by 237 acres, to the current 535 acres, in 1991. An additional 43-acre expansion is proposed, which will increase the size of the park to approximately 580 acres. It is recommended that an 18-hole regulation golf course and accessory facilities be developed at Minooka Park should the need for an additional public golf course in this portion of the County become apparent.<sup>17</sup> In the interim, it is recommended that trail facilities be provided on the recently-acquired lands at Minooka Park.

6. Monches Park: Monches Park is a largely undeveloped park site located in the northern portion of the County, in the Town of Merton. Existing development consists of a segment of the Ice Age Trail, which traverses the site. Existing County ownership encompasses an area of about 349 acres, which includes an isolated five-acre parcel along the Oconomowoc River. That parcel will become part of the park upon completion of recommended acquisitions. Under the plan, it is recommended that an additional 115 acres of land be acquired for outdoor recreation and resource preservation purposes. This 115-acre addition includes 78 acres within the 322-acre Monches Woods natural area, identified as a natural area of Statewide or greater significance, and would include the entire natural area within the park. Proposed facility development at the site includes the provision of picnic areas and trail facilities.
7. Mukwonago Park: Mukwonago Park is a 222-acre park located in the southern portion of the County, in the Town of Mukwonago.

---

<sup>17</sup>*Development of a County-owned golf course in the southwestern portion of the City of New Berlin was initially recommended, in the year 2000 County park plan, as part of proposed County Park No. 3. The initially proposed location has been shifted slightly to incorporate the proposed site as part of an expanded Minooka Park.*

Under the recommended plan, the County would acquire an additional 316 acres to the north and east of the existing park. Under the plan, proposed facility development would include the extension of public sewer and water facilities to the park and the development of an 18-hole regulation golf course and accessory facilities, should the need for a public golf course in this portion of the County become apparent. Mukwonago Park is located just north of the proposed trail traversing the Mukwonago River Parkway; trail facilities would extend from the parkway to the park.

8. Muskego Park: Muskego Park is a 209-acre park located in the southeastern portion of the County, in the City of Muskego. Existing facilities at the park include a swimming beach, picnic areas, a campground, playfields, trail facilities, and other outdoor recreation facilities. The park also encompasses the Muskego Park hardwoods, a designated State natural area. Under the plan, proposed additional facility development includes the extension of public sewer and water facilities to the park.
9. Naga-Waukee Park: Naga-Waukee Park is a 416-acre park located in the central portion of the County, in the City and Town of Delafield. The park includes lands along the shoreline of both Pewaukee and Nagawicka Lakes. Existing facilities at the park include a swimming beach; picnic areas; a campground; an 18-hole regulation golf course; boat-launch facilities on both Pewaukee and Nagawicka Lakes; playfields; trail facilities; and other outdoor recreation facilities. Existing segments of both the Ice Age Trail and the Lake Country Trail also traverse the park. In addition, the Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena was opened in 1995. It includes a rink, bleachers, rest rooms, locker rooms, and other associated facilities. The park also encompasses one natural area site, identified as having regional or County significance. Proposed additional facility development at the park includes the provision of additional picnic areas and trails; beach improvements and shoreline erosion control on Nagawicka Lake; and additional park support facilities, including a multi-purpose building and rest rooms.
10. Nashotah Park: Nashotah Park is a 444-acre park located in the northwestern portion of the County, in the Village of Nashotah and



the Town of Merton. Existing facilities at the park include picnic areas, playfields, and trail facilities. The park also encompasses two small lakes. Under the plan, proposed facility development would include the provision of additional support facilities.

11. Retzer Nature Center: Retzer Nature Center is a 338-acre park located in the center of the County, in the Towns of Genesee and Waukesha. Existing facilities at the site include a nature center, a picnic area, and trails. The site also encompasses one natural area site identified as having local significance. Under the plan, an additional 270 acres of land would be acquired for resource preservation and nature study purposes. Proposed additional facility development at the site would include the provision of additional nature trails and nature study facilities and necessary support facilities.
12. Ryan Park: Ryan Park is an undeveloped park site located in the north-central portion of the County, in the Towns of Lisbon and Pewaukee. Existing County ownership encompasses about 204 acres, including an acquisition of about 87 acres made in 1995. Under the plan, approximately 80 additional acres of land would be acquired for resource preservation and outdoor recreation purposes. Proposed facility development of the site includes the provision of picnic areas, horse trails, hiking trails, and other resource-oriented facilities and support facilities.
13. Wanaki Golf Course: Wanaki Golf Course is a 152-acre park located along the Fox River, in the Village of Menomonee Falls. The site provides an 18-hole regulation golf course. Under the plan, proposed facility development would include fairway and green improvements and other support facilities as necessary. In addition, a portion of the proposed Fox River Trail would be located along the eastern perimeter of the site.
14. Proposed County Park: Under the plan, it is recommended that the County acquire a new park site in the northwestern portion of the County. It is recommended that about 500 acres of land be acquired. Proposed facility development at the site could include an 18-hole regulation golf course and necessary support facilities, picnic areas, playfields, and trails.

In addition to the recommended facility development recommended in the above paragraphs, it is recommended that the County consider providing camping facilities at Fox Bend, Monches, and Nashotah Parks and at the proposed new park site near Oconomowoc, as well as providing additional campsites at Mukwonago Park. As noted in the Park and Open Space Needs section of this chapter, the provision of additional public campsites may be warranted because of the relatively small number of private campsites within the County.

As further described under the Park and Open Space Needs section earlier in this chapter, application of the standards for major park facilities would also call for the development of a public downhill skiing facility within the County. The provision of such a facility by the County was deemed impractical because of the unpredictable amount of snowfall received during the winter.

The acquisition and development costs relating to the expansion of, or provision of additional facilities at, the twelve existing major County parks and the acquisition and development costs for the two proposed new major County parks are presented in Table 157. As indicated in Table 157, such costs are estimated at about \$28.4 million to serve the resident population of the County under full development of the County land use plan. Of this amount, about \$5.5 million, or about 19 percent, would be required for the acquisition of additional park lands and about \$22.9 million, or about 81 percent, would be required for development of those lands.

Areawide Recreation Trails: Under the recommended plan, a 200-mile system of recreation trails would be provided to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing. The recommended trail system, shown on Map 102, is part of a larger, region-wide trail system consistent with those shown in A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010 (SEWRPC) and the Waukesha County Greenway Cross-section (see Figure 108 in the Greenways portion of the Recommended Open Space Preservation Element section of this document). The regional trail system follows the environmental corridor resources, of which Waukesha County has many. Thus more than the minimum per capita standard is recommended for the County. The recommended trail system within Waukesha County is comprised of 16 trails, including about 80 miles of existing trails and about 120 miles of proposed new trails.

Of the recommended 200-mile trail system within Waukesha County, about 146 miles, or about 73 percent, would be provided by Waukesha County as part of the following 14 trails: the Bark River, Bugline, Fox River,<sup>18</sup> Lake Country, Menomonee River,<sup>19</sup> Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Muskego Lakes, New Berlin, Oconomowoc-Watertown, Pebble Brook, Pewaukee River, Pretty Section, and the St. Martins-Wind Lake Trails. The remaining 54 miles, or about 27 percent, would be provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of the Glacial Drumlin and Ice Age Trails. While the primary responsibility for the provision of areawide trails would rest with Waukesha County and the Department of Natural Resources, several local units of government have taken the initiative to develop portions of proposed area-wide trails located within their corporate limits. The County and the Department of Natural Resources should work cooperatively with the local unit of government concerned in all cases when designing and constructing areawide trails.

Specific recommendations relating to the 16 area-wide trails are presented below.

1. Bark River Trail: The proposed 16-mile Bark River Trail is to be located along the main stem of the Bark River, in the northwestern portion of the County. This trail would connect with the Bugline Trail on the north and the Lake Country Trail on the south. The trail, which is approximately parallel to the Ice Age Trail, would provide a north-south trail for bicycling in the northwestern portion of the County; since bicycling is not permitted on the Ice Age Trail. It is recommended that Waukesha County assume responsibility for development of the trail.
2. Bugline Trail: The existing 12-mile Bugline Trail is located generally on the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad right-of-way, in northeastern Waukesha County, and extends from STH 175 in the Village of Menomonee Falls to CTH VV in the Village of Merton. The trail provides opportunities for bicycling and hiking along its entire length and a separate parallel path

for horseback riding along an approximately four-mile segment near Menomonee Park. It is recommended that the trail be extended approximately one-half mile eastward, to connect with the Menomonee River Trail, and approximately one-quarter mile westward, to connect with the Ice Age Trail and the proposed Bark River Trail. The Bugline trail would also connect with the proposed Fox River Trail in the Village of Lannon.

3. Fox River Trail: The proposed 37-mile Fox River Trail is to be sited along the main stem of the Fox River, in the eastern half of Waukesha County. This trail would connect with the Bugline Trail on the north, with the Glacial Drumlin State Trail and the New Berlin and Pebble Brook Trails in the central portion of the County, with the Mukwonago River Trail in the southern portion of the County, and with the Fox River Trail in Racine County on the south. The Fox River Trail would provide opportunities for hiking and bicycling. It is recommended that Waukesha County assume responsibility for development of the trail. Of the total 37-mile length of the Fox River Trail in Waukesha County, about two miles have been developed by the City of Waukesha within existing park sites.
4. Lake Country Trail: The 15-mile Lake Country Trail runs along a Wisconsin Electric Power Company right-of-way, a former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, in northwestern Waukesha County. It would provide opportunities for bicycling and hiking. Approximately eight miles of the trail, from the northwestern corporate limit of the City of Waukesha to the western corporate limit of the City of Delafield, have been developed by Waukesha County. It is recommended that the County extend the trail an additional seven miles to Roosevelt Park in the City of Oconomowoc. The existing trail connects with the Ice Age Trail in the City of Delafield. It is recommended that trail connections be established through the City of Waukesha to connect the Lake Country Trail to the Fox River, Glacial Drumlin, and New Berlin Trails.
5. Menomonee River Trail: The four-mile Menomonee River Trail is to be located along the main stem of the Menomonee River, in northeastern Waukesha County. This trail would connect with the Menomonee River Trail in Milwaukee County on the east and

<sup>18</sup>Approximately two miles of the proposed Fox River trail have been completed by the City of Waukesha.

<sup>19</sup>Approximately two miles of the Menomonee River trail have been completed by the Village of Menomonee Falls.

with the Bugline Trail in the Village of Menomonee Falls on the west. It would provide opportunities for bicycling and hiking. Approximately two miles of the trail have been developed by the Village of Menomonee Falls on parkway lands owned by the Village.

6. Mill Creek Trail: The proposed five-mile Mill Creek Trail is to be located along the main stem of Mill Creek, in central Waukesha County. This trail would link a proposed City of New Berlin community park on the east with the Pebble Brook Trail on the west. It would provide opportunities for bicycling and hiking. The entire length of the corridor would lie within existing and proposed County parkway lands.
7. Mukwonago River Trail: The proposed eight-mile Mukwonago River Trail is to be located along the main stem of the Mukwonago River, in southwestern Waukesha County. This trail would connect with the Fox River Trail on the east and the Mukwonago River Trail in Walworth County on the west. It would provide opportunities for a variety of trail-oriented activities, including hiking, bicycling, and nature study.
8. Muskego Lakes Trail: The proposed 10-mile portion of the Muskego Lakes Trail within Waukesha County is to be located on a Wisconsin Electric Power Company right-of-way, a former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, from the Milwaukee-Waukesha County line westward through the City of Muskego and the Village of Big Bend, to a connection with the proposed Fox River Trail. The City of Muskego has developed that portion of the trail from Forest Home Avenue in the City of Franklin, Milwaukee County, about one-quarter mile east of the eastern line of the City of Muskego, approximately five and one-half miles west, to Woods Road, near Muskego County Park. It is recommended that Waukesha County, in cooperation with the local governments concerned, assume responsibility for constructing remaining portions of the trail within Waukesha County. This trail, which is recommended in the adopted regional bicycle plan,<sup>20</sup> would extend eastward to the community of St. Martins, in Milwaukee County.
9. New Berlin Trail: The eight-mile New Berlin Trail is proposed to be located along a Wisconsin Electric Power Company right-of-way, a former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, in southeastern Waukesha County. It would provide opportunities for bicycling and hiking. Approximately six and one-half miles of the trail, extending from the Milwaukee County '76 Trail at Greenfield Park, approximately one-half mile east of the Milwaukee-Waukesha County line, to the western corporate limit of the City of New Berlin, has been developed by Waukesha County. It is recommended that the County extend the trail westward one additional mile, to Lincoln Avenue in the City of Waukesha. It is further recommended that a connecting segment be provided over City streets to connect the New Berlin Trail to the Fox River and Glacial Drumlin Trails.
10. Oconomowoc-Watertown Trail: The proposed three-mile portion of the Oconomowoc-Watertown Trail within Waukesha County is to be located on a Wisconsin Electric Power Company right-of-way, a former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, from the west County line to the western corporate limit of the City of Oconomowoc, where it is proposed to be routed on nonarterial streets to the City's Roosevelt Park. The trail would connect to the Lake Country Trail at Roosevelt Park on the east and to a proposed trail in the Wisconsin Electric Power Company right-of-way in Jefferson County on the west. It is recommended that Waukesha County, in cooperation with the City of Oconomowoc, be responsible for constructing that portion of the trail within Waukesha County. The trail would accommodate both hiking and bicycling.
11. Pebble Brook Trail: The proposed eight-mile Pebble Brook Trail is to be located along the main stem of Pebble Brook, in the Town and City of Waukesha. This trail, which is proposed to be developed by the County, would connect Minooka Park on the east with the Fox River Trail on the west. It would provide opportunities for bicycling and hiking and would be sited within existing and proposed Pebble Brook Parkway lands.
12. Pewaukee River Trail: The proposed five-mile Pewaukee River Trail is to be located along the main stem of the Pewaukee River, in the Village and Town of Pewaukee. This trail,

---

<sup>20</sup>See SEWRPC Planning Report No. 43, A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 1994.

which is proposed to be developed jointly by the Village of Pewaukee and the County, would connect the Pewaukee Lake lakefront, in the Village of Pewaukee, on the west, to the Fox River Trail, on the east. This trail would provide opportunities for a variety of trail-oriented activities, including hiking, bicycling, and nature study. The trail would be located within existing and proposed Pewaukee River Parkway lands.

13. Pretty Section Trail: The proposed nine-mile Pretty Section Trail is recommended to be developed by the County in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and to connect the Ice Age Trail in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest with the Glacial Drumlin Trail. The Pretty Section Trail, which is recommended to accommodate hiking and bicycling, would provide off-street bicycle access from the Glacial Drumlin Trail to the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and would also provide access to Pretty Lake and School Section Lake. The trail, which is approximately parallel to the Ice Age Trail, would provide a usable north-south trail for bicycling in the southwestern portion of the County, since bicycling is not permitted on the Ice Age Trail.

14. St. Martins--Wind Lake Trail: The proposed four-mile segment of the St. Martins--Wind Lake Trail within Waukesha County is to be located along a Wisconsin Electric Power Company right-of-way, a former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, from the Milwaukee-Waukesha County line southwestward through the City of Muskego to the Waukesha-Racine County line. Recommended in the regional bicycle and pedestrian system plan, the trail would extend eastward to the community of St. Martins, in Milwaukee County, and southward into Racine County, where it would continue within the same right-of-way and connect with the existing Racine County Waterford-Wind Lake Trail. It is recommended that Waukesha County assume responsibility for developing that portion of the trail located within Waukesha County.

15. Glacial Drumlin State Trail: The 16-mile portion of the Glacial Drumlin Trail in Waukesha County is located on the former Chicago North Western Railway's Milwaukee-Madison right-

of-way in western Waukesha County. The trail, which was developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, provides opportunities for bicycling, hiking, and snowmobiling. The City of Waukesha has extended the trail approximately one mile eastward, to connect with a segment of the Fox River Trail developed by the City. The Glacial Drumlin Trail also connects with the Ice Age Trail in west-central Waukesha County. The Glacial Drumlin Trail extends westward through Jefferson County, currently ending in the Village of Cottage Grove, in Dane County.

16. Ice Age Trail: The 38-mile Ice Age Trail is located in the Kettle Moraine area of western Waukesha County. This trail connects with the Ice Age Trail in Washington County on the north and with the Ice Age Trail in the Kettle Moraine State Forest--Southern Unit in Jefferson and Walworth Counties on the south, providing opportunities for hiking and cross-country skiing. Bicycling is not permitted on the trail. The trail is being developed cooperatively by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Ice Age Trail and Park Foundation, Waukesha County, and a number of local governments. To date, all but nine miles of the trail within the County have been completed.

The development costs pertaining to the recommended trail facilities are presented in Table 158. The development of 200 miles of trails in the County is estimated to cost about \$2.8 million, with Waukesha County responsible for approximately \$2.6 million and the Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation responsible for the remaining \$200,000.

It is also recommended that the County, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the City of Waukesha, work to connect the Fox River, Glacial Drumlin, Lake Country, and New Berlin Trails through a combination of off-street paths and on-street routes. Proposed trail connections are depicted on Map 102. It should be noted that the connection between the New Berlin Trail and the Fox River Trail is proposed to be located on-street, approximately parallel to an existing railway line which was in 1995 owned jointly by the Union Pacific Railroad and the Wisconsin Central, Ltd. The rail line has not been used for several years. Should this line be abandoned, it is recommended that the County and City of Waukesha consider acquiring the right-of-



way for development of an off-street connection between the New Berlin and Fox River Trails.

The plan also recommends the development of two on-street connections between the Lake Country and Glacial Drumlin Trails. The first connection would be located on CTH TT, on the west side of the City of Waukesha. The second would be located on Cushing Park Road, in the City and Town of Delafield. The CTH TT route is included as part of the adopted regional bicycle plan. The Cushing Park Road route represents a modification of the regional bicycle plan, which recommended that the connection between the Lake Country and Glacial Drumlin Trails be accommodated on CTH C. The Town of Delafield has expressed an interest in relocating the proposed bicycle route because of the lower volume of vehicular traffic on Cushing Park Road, in comparison to CTH C.

It is further recommended that, following the acquisition of the new major park site in the north-western portion of the County, a trail corridor be identified to provide a connection from the new park to the Bark River Trail.

**Lake and River Access:** Lakes and rivers constitute a particularly valuable part of the natural resource base of the County. Lakes and rivers enhance the aesthetic quality of the County and are focal points for water-related recreational activities, including such active uses as swimming, boating, and fishing and such passive uses as walking, viewing, or sitting along the water's edge.

The open space element of this plan provides for the protection, through zoning or public acquisition, of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Generally, such corridors include the area within 75 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of rivers and major lakes. Public acquisition of such corridors is recommended in areas of the County proposed to be developed for urban use or if the corridors encompass an identified natural area or a proposed park or trail facility. The open space element of this plan further recommends the acquisition of corridor lands along eight rivers and major streams in the County as part of proposed parkways. Such parkways are intended to protect river and stream corridors and to provide facilities for such recreational activities as hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, and wildlife viewing.

In this regard, the Waukesha County Greenway Corridor Study prepared in 1996 for the County by the Regional Planning Commission has developed a

methodology whereby sites suitable for the location of trails, parking areas, and public access can be systematically identified.<sup>21</sup> This methodology is intended to be applied to other segments of the Fox River and to the seven other recommended parkways to ensure that recreational development in riparian areas does not adversely effect environmentally sensitive resources within the corridor.

In addition to resource protection and access for passive recreational activities adjacent to rivers and lakes, this plan recommends the development of boat-access sites to provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water related recreation activities as motorboating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes, lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more, be provided with adequate public boat access consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in various boating activities. This recommendation is consistent with requirements for public access for motorboating set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Table 152 lists the major lakes in the County and indicates whether or not public access for boating is provided. As indicated in the table, no public access, by either a public site or a private site open to the public, was available in 1995 at the following 10 major lakes: Big Muskego Lake, Crooked Lake, Hunters Lake, Lake Keesus, Lower Nashotah Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond. Since 1995, access sites have been acquired, but as of June 1996 not developed, on Big Muskego Lake, Hunters Lake, and Lake Keesus.

It should be noted that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, recently adopted revised rules regarding lake access. Those rules, set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, require public boating access sites, including boat launching and parking facilities, to be provided on inland lakes, with the number of parking spaces varying depending on the size of the lake. The Administrative Code requires that launch facilities

---

<sup>21</sup>See *SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 40, Waukesha County Greenway Corridor Study, Towns of Waukesha and Vernon, May 1996.*

with at least one car-trailer parking space and a combined total of five car-trailer and automobile parking spaces be provided at boating- access sites on lakes 50 acres to 99 acres in size. The number of total parking spaces and car-trailer parking spaces increases as the size of the lake increases. The regulations also specify a maximum number of parking spaces to be provided, which also vary according to the size of the lake, in recognition that too many boats on a lake threatens both the safety of boaters and the integrity of the lake. The minimum and maximum number of parking spaces to be provided at lake-access sites within Waukesha County are shown on Table 159.

A survey of all the major lakes in the State was conducted by the Department in 1994 to determine if adequate public access to each was provided and maintained. Public access was found to be inadequate to the following 10 major lakes in Waukesha County: Beaver Lake, Big Muskego Lake, Crooked Lake, Hunters Lake, Lake Keesus, North Lake, Okauchee Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources inventory differs from the Regional Planning Commission inventory in certain respects, which are summarized by Table 160. The Department inventory determined access to be adequate to Moose Lake; however, the access site, which was a private site open to the public, closed in 1995. The Department inventory also considered access to be adequate for Lower Nashotah Lake, although current access is through Upper Nemahbin Lake and an outlet channel which may not be adequate for larger boats. The Department considers access to be inadequate at Beaver and Okauchee Lakes, which both have public access, because of an inadequate number of car-trailer parking spaces.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided funding in 1995 to the City of Muskego to develop a boat-access site on Big Muskego Lake. A site was acquired in 1995 and development is expected to occur in 1996. In addition, the Department acquired a portion of a proposed public access site on Lake Keesus in 1995. The Department is expected to acquire the remainder of the proposed site in 1996. Development of the site is dependent on funding, but is not expected to occur until 1997 or later. A public access site on Hunters Lake was deeded to the Department in 1995. Development of the Hunters Lake site is also dependent on funding.

Under the plan, then, it is recommended that public boat-access sites be acquired and developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the following lakes: Crooked Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond; that an access site be developed on Hunters Lake and Lake Keesus; and that additional car-trailer parking facilities be provided at Beaver Lake and Okauchee Lake. It is also recommended that the department consider acquiring and developing an access site on Lower Nashotah Lake. As indicated in Table 159, acquisition and development costs for the boating access sites are estimated to total about \$2.4 million. Table 159 lists both the minimum and maximum number of parking spaces at each lake called for by Department regulations. Cost estimates for developing access sites were based on provision of the minimum number of parking spaces required under those regulations.

It should also be recognized that increasing use of lakes for many different activities, including such activities as motorboating, canoeing, swimming, and fishing, has the potential to lead to conflicts among lake users. Local units of government have the authority under State law to enact ordinances to regulate activities on lake waters, including regulating boat speeds, limiting the hours for certain types of water activities, or "zoning" a lake to prohibit competing uses within the same part of the lake. Lake use issues should be identified and resolved through the preparation of lake management plans, which could be used to survey and evaluate existing water based recreational use opportunities, conflicts, and desired recreational preferences. As of 1995, lake management plans had been completed for 10, or about 31 percent, of the 32 major lakes within Waukesha County. Such plans are being prepared for an additional nine major lakes. The lakes for which management plans had been prepared, or were under preparation in 1996, are listed in Table G-4 in Appendix G.

It is also recommended that additional canoe-access sites to the Fox River be provided, including an access site at the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area, to be provided by the Department of Natural Resources, and one access site each at Fox Bend and Fox River parks, to be provided by Waukesha County. Although the plan standards specifically call for canoe access to be provided along the Fox River in Waukesha County, several other rivers in the County would be suitable for canoeing, including the Ashippun, Bark, Mukwonago, Oconomowoc, and Pewaukee Rivers. It is therefore recommended that the County and local units of government

provide canoe-access points and associated parking at appropriate locations along other rivers and streams, particularly within existing and proposed public parks, such as the new major park proposed to be located along the Ashippun River north of Oconomowoc, and the eight parkways recommended to be established along major rivers and streams within the County.

**Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan Element:** In addition to meeting resource-oriented outdoor recreation needs, a park plan must seek to provide sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented activities, such as baseball, tennis, and playground activities. In comparison to the resource-oriented outdoor recreation site and facilities, sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented activities rely less heavily on natural resource amenities, generally meet a greater need in urban than rural areas, and have a relatively small service radius. For these reasons, responsibility for providing such sites and facilities generally rests with city, village, and town governments.

Within urban areas of the County, it is recommended that a full range of community and neighborhood park sites and facilities be provided. Recommendations for the provision of local park sites and facilities should be identified through the preparation and local adoption of comprehensive local park and open space plans. As of April 1, 1996, such local park and open space plans have been prepared and adopted within Waukesha County by the following 14 local governments:<sup>22</sup> the Cities of Brookfield, Delafield, Muskego, New Berlin, and Waukesha; the Villages of Butler, Hartland, Menomonee Falls, Mukwonago, Pewaukee, Sussex, and Wales; and the Towns of Delafield and Pewaukee. In addition, local park plans are being prepared by the City of Oconomowoc, the Villages of Nashotah and Sussex, and the Towns of Merton, Summit, and Vernon. A list of adopted local park and open space plans is provided in Table G-5 in Appendix G.

Within the rural areas of the County, it is generally recommended that one town-owned park and associated outdoor recreation facilities be provided in each town to serve the needs of residents for local civic events and for such organized recreational activities as softball and picnicking. As the community recreational facility, the town park should

be located in conjunction with another community facility that serves as a focal point for town residents, such as a town hall, school, or fire station. Towns which currently lack park and outdoor recreation facilities should have the opportunity to acquire and develop, with available Federal and State grant-in-aid support, one town park and associated recreation facilities.

**Maintenance of Existing Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites:** It is important to note that, in addition to recommendations relating to the provision of new park sites and facilities, this plan anticipates the maintenance in continued recreational use of existing publicly owned recreation sites within the County. Maintenance activities at these sites should include, as necessary, such activities as the provision, paving, and resurfacing of parking lots and walkways; resurfacing of volleyball, basketball, and tennis court areas; provision, repair, or replacement of such support facilities as sportsfield lighting, park benches, picnic tables and drinking fountains; provision, repair, or replacement of rest rooms, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and the maintenance of lawns, gardens, and other landscape plantings. Maintenance activities also include importantly the retrofitting of facilities where necessary to accommodate access by persons with disabilities.

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, adopted by the U. S. Congress in 1990, requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to provide persons with disabilities equal opportunities for access to jobs, transportation, public facilities, and services, including access to recreational facilities. All new or renovated park and recreation facilities within the County must be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of the Act. Existing public park and recreation facilities should be evaluated by the unit of government concerned to determine if improvements are needed to meet Federal accessibility requirements.

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended park and open space plan for Waukesha County consists of an outdoor recreation element providing recommendations for parks and other outdoor recreation facilities and an open space preservation element providing recommendations for the protection of important natural resource features. The recommended plan described in the preceding sections of this chapter provides a design for the attainment of the specific park acquisition and development objectives and the open space

---

<sup>22</sup>*Includes only those local governments whose plans have been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.*

preservation objectives presented in Appendix G of this report. In a practical sense, however, the recommended park and open space plan for the County is not complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. The remainder of this chapter is intended to serve as a guide for use in the implementation of the recommended plan, including a description of those actions required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and by Waukesha County and a description of the acquisition and development costs and priorities associated with the implementation of the recommended plan. A summary of acquisition and development costs is provided in Table 161.

#### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality control, and water use regulations. Because of this broad range of authority and responsibility, certain Department functions have particular importance in the implementation of the County park and open space plan. The Department has the obligation to prepare comprehensive statewide conservation and water resource plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of state parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other resources; and the authority to acquire conservation and scenic easements. The Department also has the authority to administer the Federal grant program known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund program within the State, and administers the State Stewardship Fund, which provides funding for County and local park and open space land acquisition and development. The Department also has the obligation to establish standards for floodplain and shoreland zoning and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local actions, shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances.

It is important that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approve and adopt the County park and open space plan in order to maintain the eligibility of the County to receive available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation. The Department should also use available regulatory authority to guide urban development in accordance with the general location and extent of the recommended urban service areas identified in the plan and to preserve and protect important natural resource features to enhance environmental quality in the County. Finally, the Department should be directly responsible for the maintenance of existing State-owned recreation and

open space sites in the County; the acquisition of resource preservation sites, including natural areas and critical species habitat sites, as recommended in this chapter; and the acquisition and development of boat-access sites as recommended in this Chapter. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the Department is included in Table 161.

#### Waukesha County

The authority and responsibility for the provision of areawide park and open space sites and facilities in the County rests primarily with the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission. A summary of the park acquisition and development and open space preservation recommendations for the County is included in Table 161.<sup>23</sup>

Under the recommended park and open space plan, Waukesha County should acquire additional land at six existing major park sites and develop additional facilities at all 12 existing major county park sites, acquire and develop two proposed new major county parks, and develop additional facilities at four other county sites.

As previously noted, application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the anticipated County population levels for both the year 2010 and under buildout conditions indicate the County is in need of additional parklands to serve future County residents. This gross calculation accounts for each park site containing sufficient developable land, that is, areas with suitable soils and slopes, to accommodate needed recreational facilities and activities, and that much (70 percent) of the area within existing major parks consists of lands which should not be developed for intensive recreational use because of their natural resource characteristics. Acquisition of natural resource lands by the County as part of major park sites serves to preserve such lands and contributes to the aesthetic value of the park. Thus, there is a need for more park land in order to provide needed recreational facilities while protecting park lands having impor-

---

<sup>23</sup>*It should be noted that the costs associated with implementation of the County park plan may be offset through grants provided for recreational and open space purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be offset by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.*



tant natural resource value. Additional park land is also needed to assure that major parks are distributed throughout the County in a manner that assures good accessibility to all County residents.

The plan also recommends that the County develop 146 additional linear miles of trails and that efforts be made to connect several existing trails within the County, specifically, interconnections through the City of Waukesha between the existing Lake Country and New Berlin Trails, developed by Waukesha County; the existing Glacial Drumlin Trail, developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and an existing segment of the Fox River Trail, developed by the City of Waukesha. It is recommended that the County and City of Waukesha work cooperatively to identify and establish appropriate on- and off-street routes to connect these trails and provide proper signage and such improvements as safe drainage grates and improved railway crossings, where necessary.

It is further recommended that the County provide canoe-access points<sup>24</sup> to the Fox River within Fox Bend and Fox River Parks.

Under the open space plan element recommendations, the County should acquire additional natural resource areas to assure the preservation of important areawide natural resource systems in the County, including the acquisition of an additional 11,300 acres of primary environmental corridors, about four acres of secondary environmental corridors, and about 25 acres of isolated natural resource areas, as indicated in Table G-3 in Appendix G.

It is also important to note that Waukesha County, in cooperation with the civil towns in the County,

---

<sup>24</sup>A Waukesha County Greenway Corridor Study, mentioned above, has been completed jointly by the Regional Planning Commission and the County. The study is intended to define more specifically lands along the Fox River and its tributaries which should be acquired by the County for resource protection and for recreation purposes and to identify areas within the primary environmental corridor that would be suitable for the development of trails, canoe-access sites, and such associated recreational facilities as parking lots and access roads. The study is described in SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 111 Waukesha County Greenway Corridor Study, Towns of Waukesha and Vernon, May 1996.

is responsible for the protection of natural resources in the unincorporated portions of the County. Under the recommended park and open space plan for Waukesha County, it is recommended that the County cooperate with the towns to preserve the important natural resource features encompassed by the primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas through appropriate public land use regulation.

#### Local Units of Government

While the provision of major parks, recreation corridors, water-access facilities, and important natural resource features, including lands encompassed by the proposed parkways, are proposed to be County or State responsibilities, local units of governments should consult with the State and County to identify specific lands required for areawide park and parkway purposes. Once such lands are identified, local units of government should utilize their zoning and official map powers to reserve the needed lands in open space for eventual acquisition by the State or the County. Further, it may be appropriate for local units of government to accept in dedication certain lands identified for State or County acquisition as the land subdivision process proceeds and then transfer ownership of such lands to the County or State. Similarly, it would be appropriate for the County or State to assume the responsibility for the development of trail facilities in local parks, as needed, to assure continuity and uniformity in the proposed continuous regionwide system of recreation trails.

#### Acquisition and Development

##### Priorities for Waukesha County

Priorities for the park and open space acquisition and development projects proposed for implementation by Waukesha County are presented in this section. It is necessary to establish priorities for park and open space acquisition and development because public financial resources available for acquisition and development are limited and because implementation of the recommended plan as set forth herein will, as a practical matter, occur gradually, over time.

It is recommended that the County continue actively to acquire land for recreational and open space preservation purposes. Land acquisition is particularly important given the rapid pace of urbanization occurring within the County. County efforts to date to acquire park and open space lands at a reasonable cost and before their development for urban uses have been exemplary. It is recommended that priority for land acquisition be given first to

lands needed for new major parks or for expanding existing major parks and parkways; followed by acquisition of other environmental corridor lands; and then of other park and open space sites.

Recommended priorities to the year 2010 include:

- Acquisition of remaining major park sites,
- Acquisition of parkway lands, with emphasis on establishment of the Fox River Parkway and development of a trail within the parkway,
- Develop canoe-access facilities to the Fox River at Fox Bend and Fox River Parks.

Acquisition and development activities and associated costs for the acquisition and development of major park sites during the 15-year period between 1996 and 2010, which are set forth in Table 162, are estimated at about \$23.5 million. In addition to the costs related to the development of major parks, it is recommended that the County over the next 15 years provide an average of approximately \$100,000 per year for the acquisition of parkway lands, for a total cost of \$1.5 million. Acquisition and development activities and associated costs related to park system development included in the County capital improvements program for the five-year period between 1996 and 2000 are set forth in Table 163.

## SUMMARY

The primary purpose of the park and open space element of the Waukesha County development plan is the preparation and presentation of a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation and open space needs of the existing and probable future resident population of the County and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. Implementation of the recommended plan would assure the protection and preservation of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the County, and the provision of an adequate number and variety of park and open space sites and facilities geographically well distributed throughout the County, thereby meeting the existing and probable future recreation needs of the residents of the County.

The recommended park and open space plan consists of both an open space preservation element

and an outdoor recreation and education element. The open space preservation element consists of three major components: preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and parkways associated with the primary environmental corridors; preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites; and protection of open space lands located within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries for the Lulu Lake Natural Area, the Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area.

Of the total 97,314 acres of recommended open space lands, 24,764 acres, or about 25 percent, were in public ownership, public-interest ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 1995 and are recommended to be preserved in current ownership. It is recommended that an additional 32,448 acres, or about 33 percent of proposed open space lands, including about 852 acres within proposed new or expanded major County park sites, be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The estimated cost of acquiring such lands is about \$77 million. The remaining 40,102 acres of open space lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, conservancy, and, for upland portions of the corridor outside areas of steep slopes, rural residential zoning with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres.

Primary environmental corridors located in urban or urbanizing areas in Southeastern Wisconsin that are held in public ownership are often termed "parkways." Parkways are generally located along a stream or river, ridge line, or other linear natural feature and are intended to provide aesthetic and natural resource continuity. Parkways often serve as good locations for trail facilities. It is recommended that the County acquire land and establish parkways along the following eight major streams: the Bark River, Fox River, Menomonee River, Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Oconomowoc River, Pebble Brook, and Pewaukee River.

Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, 19 major parks and one special regional outdoor recreational site would be provided within Waukesha County. Of the 19 major parks, 17 are existing parks and two would be new parks to be developed by Waukesha County. Of the 17 existing major

parks, 12 are owned by Waukesha County: Fox Bend Park, Fox River Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Monches Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Naga-Waukee Park, Nashotah Park, Retzer Nature Center, Ryan Park, and Wanaki Golf Course; three are owned by the State of Wisconsin: the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and the Pine Woods Campground in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest; and two are owned by local governments: the New Berlin Hills Golf Course, owned by the City of New Berlin, and Wirth Park, owned by the City of Brookfield. The special regional outdoor recreational site is Old World Wisconsin, a site operated by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin but owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

In addition to maintaining the 12 existing major County parks, Waukesha County would be responsible for the acquisition and development of two new major parks, including a new 500-acre park in the northwestern portion of the County, intended to serve the Oconomowoc area, and a new major park in the northwestern portion of the City of Brookfield, intended to serve the north-central portion of the County.

In addition to the need for a new park to serve residents in the northwestern portion of the County, the needs analysis conducted for the outdoor recreation element of the plan indicated a need for three additional public golf courses, one public downhill ski hill, and one public swimming beach. The plan recommends development of new public golf courses by the County at Minooka Park, Mukwonago Park, and at the new Oconomowoc major park site. A new swimming beach is proposed to be located at the proposed Fox Brook Park. Development of a public downhill ski hill was deemed impractical due to the unpredictable winter weather and snow conditions in the County.

Under the recommended plan, a 200-mile system of recreation trails would be provided within the County to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing. Of the recommended trail system, about 146 miles, or about 73 percent, would be provided by Waukesha County as part of the following 14 trails: the Bark River, Bugline, Fox River, Lake Country, Menomonee River, Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Muskego Lakes, New Berlin, Oconomowoc-Water-

town, Pebble Brook, Pewaukee River, Pretty Section, and the Waterford-St. Martins Trails. Of the 146 miles to be provided by Waukesha County, 36 miles have already been constructed. The remaining 54 miles of the 200-mile areawide trail system, or 27 percent, would be provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of the Glacial Drumlin and Ice Age Trails. All but nine miles of the State trails have been completed.

The plan also recommends the development of boat-access points on major lakes and streams to provide opportunities for those individuals who do not own land on a body of water to participate in such water related recreation activities as motorboating, water-skiing, fishing, and canoeing. Under the plan, it is recommended that public boat-access sites be acquired and developed by the Department of Natural Resources on the following lakes: Big Muskego, Crooked Lake, Hunters Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond; that an access site be developed on Lake Keesus; and that additional car-trailer parking facilities be provided at Beaver Lake and Okauchee Lake. It is also recommended that the Department consider acquiring and developing an access site on Lower Nashotah Lake. It is further recommended that the Department provide a canoe-access site to the Fox River at the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area, and that Waukesha County provide Fox River canoe-access sites at Fox Bend and Fox River Parks.

Table 164 provides a summary of the amount of land in existing and proposed public or public-interest ownership for park or open space preservation purposes under the park and open space element of the Waukesha County development plan. As shown by the table, County park and open space sites in 1995 encompassed a total of 7,565 acres. This area is recommended under the plan to increase by 12,309 acres, to 19,874 acres, or about 5 percent of the total area of the County. As also shown by the table, State-owned park and open space sites in 1995 encompassed a total of 16,337 acres. This area is recommended under the plan to increase by 6,320 acres, to 22,657 acres, or about 6 percent of the total area of the County. In all, under full plan implementation, 64,928 acres, or about 18 percent of the total area of the County, would be in public or public-interest ownership for park or open space preservation purposes.

The total estimated cost for implementing the park and open space plan is about \$111 million. The estimated cost to Waukesha County is about

\$53 million. As previously noted, the costs associated with implementation of the County park plan may be offset through grants provided for recreational and open space purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The

acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be offset by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

## Chapter XIII

### PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

#### INTRODUCTION

The recommended new park and open space plan for Waukesha County is presented in this chapter. The new plan consists of both an areawide outdoor recreation element and an open space preservation element, intended to provide, respectively, resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities and the protection of areas containing important natural resources. The plan is intended to assist the Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department in carrying out its primary functions of promoting environmental stewardship, preserving cultural heritage, protecting needed open space, and facilitating outdoor recreation and education through the identification, acquisition, preservation, development, operation, and maintenance of a natural resource-based park system.

It is intended that the County park and open space plan meet State planning requirements for the State outdoor recreation aids program, thereby making the County eligible to apply for, and receive, available State and Federal funds to assist in the acquisition and development of recommended park and open space sites and facilities. To this end, recommendations regarding implementation responsibilities and plan implementation costs for County park and open space sites are included in this chapter.

Sites and facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities are typically provided by city, village, and urban town units of government and are therefore not specifically addressed in this plan. Recommendations for the provision of local park sites and facilities should be identified through the preparation, within the framework of the County plan, of local park and open space plans by the individual communities concerned. Accordingly, it is not intended that the County plan serve as the park and open space plan for the individual urban local units of government within the County. The County plan should, however, assist rural towns that adopt the County plan to qualify for available Federal and State grant-in-aid in support of the development of town park and associated recreation facilities.

The plan outlines the park and open space facilities needed to serve the resident County population anticipated under full development of the County land use plan. The plan also presents recommendations related to park and open space facilities that would be needed to serve the resident population of the County anticipated under the year 2010 stage of the County land use plan. The plan is sufficiently detailed to provide a sound basis for short-term planning and programming by the responsible County officials.

Inventory data needed for the preparation of the park and open space plan are provided in earlier chapters of this report. Such data include historic and existing resident population and household levels, presented in Chapter II; projected resident population and household levels, presented in Chapter VIII; the existing land use pattern, presented in Chapter IV; the planned land use pattern, presented in Chapter X; and the location and extent of environmental corridors, natural areas, floodlands, and other important natural resources and natural resource-related elements, presented in Chapter III. These data were carefully considered and used in the preparation of the park and open space plan documented in this chapter.

#### Regional Park and Open Space Plan

The first park and open space plan for Waukesha County was an integral part of the first regional park and open space plan,<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of a network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including the

---

<sup>1</sup>See SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000.

Kettle Moraine area of Waukesha County and the riverine areas of the Fox River and its major tributaries. The regional park and open space plan further recommended that primary environmental corridors and prime agricultural lands be preserved in order to sustain the natural resource base and the environmental quality of the Region.

#### Year 2000 Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan

In 1984, the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open space plan as it applied to Waukesha County. The resulting plan is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 137, A Park and Open Space Plan for Waukesha County, December 1989. That plan, which has a design year of 2000, was adopted by the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors on February 20, 1990, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 7, 1990. The year 2000 plan is graphically summarized on Map 67 in Chapter VI of this report.

The year 2000 County park and open space plan recommends the acquisition of four additional park sites by Waukesha County; the expansion of five existing County parks; and continued development of eight other County parks for such resource-oriented recreational uses as swimming, golfing, picnicking, and hiking. The plan recommends the protection of primary environmental corridors and, more specifically, that the County acquire primary environmental corridors lying adjacent to the rivers and major streams in the County. The plan recommends the development of 11 recreational trails within the County and the development of four lake-access sites and two canoe-access points on the Fox River. The plan also contained recommendations for acquisition of additional natural areas by the Department of Natural Resources. A summary of the implementation status of the year 2000 plan is provided in Table 148.

#### EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

##### Waukesha County Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

In 1995, the Waukesha County park system consisted of 35 sites,<sup>2</sup> encompassing about 5,920 acres, or about 1.6 percent of the total area of the County. The 35 County sites include 12 major parks,<sup>3</sup> encompassing about 3,675 acres; seven other park

or open space sites, encompassing about 440 acres; 11 parkway sites, encompassing about 1,410 acres;<sup>4</sup> two lake-access sites, encompassing about 20 acres; and three County recreation trails, encompassing about 375 acres.<sup>5</sup> Together, lands under easement or lease agreement with the County for open space or recreational trail purposes accounted for 289 acres, or 5 percent, of the 5,920 acres of County park and open space lands.

County park and open space sites owned in 1995, other than trails, are shown on Map 97. Trails are shown on Map 98. County park and open space sites are listed on Table 149.

Major County Parks: Major county parks are well distributed throughout the County and provide a variety of outdoor recreation facilities. Selected outdoor recreation facilities within the 12 major parks owned by Waukesha County in 1995 are listed in Table 150. As indicated in that table, major parks

---

<sup>2</sup>The County also owns the grounds of the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha campus. The site, which is operated by the State of Wisconsin, currently provides facilities for certain nonresource-oriented recreational activities, specifically, tennis and soccer.

<sup>3</sup>Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for such resource-oriented activities as camping, golfing, picnicking, and swimming. Major parks include both Type I, or regional parks, with an area of 250 acres or more, and Type II, or multi-community parks, with an area of between 100 and 250 acres.

<sup>4</sup>Includes about 1,245 acres owned by Waukesha County and about 165 acres under conservation easement to Waukesha County.

<sup>5</sup>Of the three County trails, one, the Bugline trail, is located on right-of-way owned by the County and two, the Lake Country and New Berlin trails, are located on Wisconsin Electric Power Company rights-of-way leased to the County for trail purposes. The Bugline trail right-of-way and adjacent County-owned parcels encompass about 250 acres. The rights-of-way under lease agreement for the Lake Country and New Berlin trails encompass about 53 acres and 73 acres, respectively.



Table 148

**STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE-ORIENTED PARKS, TRAILS,  
AND WATER-ACCESS SITES AND FACILITIES IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1989-1995**

Resource-Oriented Site or Facility <sup>a</sup>	General Recommendations Set Forth under the Year 2000 Plan		Implementation Activity: 1989-1995	
	Acquisition <sup>b</sup> (acres)	Development <sup>b</sup>	Acquisition (acres)	Development
<b>County Parks</b>				
Menomonee Park .....	--	Additional playfields, picnic areas, group camping, horse trails, and improve support facilities	--	Group camping area expansion, horse trails, concession stand
Minooka Park .....	--	Improve support facilities and beach house, connect with Pebble Brook recreation corridor	238	Beach house renovation
Monches Park .....	248	Picnic areas and trails	150	--
Moor Downs Golf Course .....	--	Course improvements	--	Course improvements
Mukwonago Park .....	--	Improve support facilities, connect with the Mukwonago River recreation corridor	--	--
Muskego Park .....	30	Improve support facilities	16	--
Naga-Wauke Park .....	157	9-hole golf course expansion, picnic areas, trails, shoreline erosion control, support facilities	--	Ice rink, irrigation improvements
Nashotah Park .....	--	Improve support facilities	--	--
Retzer Nature Center .....	171	Trails and nature study facilities	--	Trails and nature study facilities
Ryan Park .....	80	Picnic areas, trails, and support facilities	87	Bridle paths
Smith Park .....	--	Picnic areas, trails, and support facilities	--	--
Wanaki Golf Course .....	--	Course improvements	--	Tee improvements
Winzenreid-Kuhtz Property <sup>c</sup> .....	--	Picnic areas and trails	55	Trails
Proposed Park No. 1 .....	185	18-hole golf course	--	--
Proposed Park No. 2 .....	185	18-hole golf course	--	--
Proposed Park No. 3 .....	200	18-hole golf course	238 <sup>d</sup>	--
Proposed Park No. 4 <sup>e</sup> .....	400	Picnic areas, trails, canoe access to Fox River, connection with Fox River recreation corridor	209	--
<b>Trails<sup>f</sup></b>				
Bugline Trail .....	--	One mile of trail development (12 total)	--	One mile developed <sup>g</sup>
Fox River Trail .....	--	32 miles of trail development (37 total)	--	One mile developed <sup>h</sup>
Lake Country Trail .....	--	11 miles of trail development	--	Eight miles developed <sup>g</sup>
Menomonee River Trail .....	--	Six miles of trail development	--	--
Mill Creek Trail .....	--	Five miles of trail development	--	--
Mukwonago River Trail .....	--	14 miles of trail development	--	--
New Berlin Trail .....	--	Two miles of trail development (eight total)	--	Trail to be completed by County in 1996
Pebble Brook Trail .....	--	11 miles of trail development (12 total)	--	--
Tamarack Trail .....	--	Six miles of trail development	--	--
Glacial Drumlin State Trail .....	--	Development complete	--	--
Ice Age Trail (DNR) .....	--	13 miles of trail development (38 total)	--	Four miles developed
<b>Parkways</b>				
Bark River Parkway .....	2,223	--	--	--
Fox River Parkway .....	3,603	--	81	--
Menomonee River Parkway .....	269	--	--	--
Mill Creek Parkway .....	199	--	18	--
Mukwonago River Parkway .....	1,046	--	143 <sup>j</sup>	--
Oconomowoc River Parkway .....	886	--	70	--

Table 148 (continued)

Resource-Oriented Site or Facility <sup>a</sup>	General Recommendations Set Forth under the Year 2000 Plan		Implementation Activity: 1989-1995	
	Acquisition <sup>b</sup> (acres)	Development <sup>b</sup>	Acquisition (acres)	Development
<b>Parkways (continued)</b>				
Pebble Brook Parkway .....	709	--	58	--
Pewaukee River Parkway .....	424	--	38 <sup>j</sup>	--
Tamarack Swamp .....	1,045	--	415 <sup>k</sup>	--
Ice Age Trail (DNR) .....	708 <sup>l</sup>	--	--	--
<b>Surface Water Access</b>				
Hunters Lake (DNR) .....	--	One slow-boating access point	--	--
Lower Nashotah Lake (DNR) .....	--	One slow-boating access point	--	--
Upper Nashotah Lake (DNR) .....	--	One slow-boating access point	--	--
Pine Lake (DNR) .....	--	One fast-boating access point	Site acquired	Access developed
Fox River .....	--	Canoe access points at Fox Bend Park and Fox River Park	Sites acquired	Development funded
<b>Other State Sites</b>				
Ashippun Lake Remnant Area .....	18	--	--	--
Kettle Moraine State Forest- Lapham Peak Unit .....	476	Family camping, nature and visitor's center, general site improvements	539	New access road, picnic area, and backpack camping area
Lulu Lake State Natural Area <sup>m</sup> .....	312	--	--	--
Kettle Moraine State Forest- Southern Unit <sup>n</sup> .....	2,916	--	710	--
Lake Keesus Remnant Area .....	141	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 9 <sup>o</sup> .....	184	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 10 <sup>o</sup> .....	54	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 11 <sup>o</sup> .....	119	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 12 <sup>o</sup> .....	22	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 13 <sup>o</sup> .....	161	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 14 <sup>o</sup> .....	322	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 15 <sup>o</sup> .....	46	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 16 <sup>o</sup> .....	517	--	47 <sup>p</sup>	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 17 <sup>o</sup> .....	20	--	--	--
Proposed Scattered Wetland 18 <sup>o</sup> .....	7	--	--	--
Scattered Wetland 26 <sup>o</sup> .....	111	--	--	--
Statewide Habitat Area 32 <sup>o</sup> .....	51	--	--	--
Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area .....	2,372	--	409	--

<sup>a</sup>Sites and facilities are to be provided by Waukesha County unless otherwise noted.

<sup>b</sup>Included acquisition and development in addition to that existing in 1988.

<sup>c</sup>Now known as Fox River Park.

<sup>d</sup>Additional land was acquired adjacent to Minooka Park in lieu of establishing a new park in the City of New Berlin.

<sup>e</sup>Now known as Fox Bend Park.

<sup>f</sup>Land acquisition for trails is included in the "parkway" category of this table for those trails located in natural resource corridors. The Lake Country and New Berlin trails are to be located on power company rights-of-way. Land acquisition for the Tamarack Trail, located adjacent to the Tamarack Swamp in the Village of Menomonee Falls, is included under the Fox River Parkway.

<sup>g</sup>Trail developed by Waukesha County.

<sup>h</sup>Trail developed by the City of Waukesha.

<sup>i</sup>These 143 acres were acquired by the Village of Mukwonago.

<sup>j</sup>These 38 acres were acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as a wetland mitigation site.

## Footnotes to Table 148 (continued)

<sup>k</sup>These 415 acres were acquired by the Village of Menomonee Falls.

<sup>l</sup>Does not include area within parkways or other public park or open space sites.

<sup>m</sup>The Lulu Lake State Natural Area was referred to as the Mukwonago River Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in the year 2000 park and open space plan report. This table includes only that portion of the Natural Area located in Waukesha County.

<sup>n</sup>Includes Scuppernong Wildlife Area, Old World Wisconsin, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area, Pine Woods Campground, and those portions of the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit located within Waukesha County.

<sup>o</sup>Number corresponds to "map reference number" on Table 12 of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 137.

<sup>p</sup>These 47 acres were acquired by Waukesha County.

Source: Waukesha County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

within the County system currently provide five swimming beaches, four campgrounds, two indoor ice arenas,<sup>6</sup> and two 18-hole, regulation golf courses.<sup>7</sup> In addition, designated picnic areas are provided at six parks and various playfield facilities at six parks. The County also provides opportunities for such trail-oriented activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, and nature study throughout the County park system.

**Other County Park and Open Space Sites:** In addition to the 12 major parks owned by the County, seven other sites, not including boat-access sites, parcels within parkways, or trails, were owned by Waukesha County in 1995 (see Map 97). These sites include Eble Park, Moor Downs Golf Course, Smith Park, the Waukesha County Expo Center, two scattered wetlands, and one undeveloped County-owned parcel. Facilities provided at these sites include an indoor ice-skating rink at Eble Park; a nine-hole golf course at Moor Downs; and an exhibit hall, horse arena, and fairgrounds at the Expo Center. The remaining sites are currently undeveloped.

**Boat-Access Sites:** The County owns four boat-access sites. Two sites, providing boat access to Nagawicka Lake and Pewaukee Lake, are within Naga-Waukee

County Park. The County also owns public boat-access sites on Nemahbin Lake and on School Section Lake. All sites include boat access and associated parking. The County also operates the Ashippun Lake boat-access site, which is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

**Parkways:** Primary environmental corridors along rivers and streams are often referred to as "parkways" or "greenways." The County park and open space plan defines a "parkway" as a linear area of publicly owned land, usually lying along a stream, which encompasses important natural resources. Parkway are ideally suited for the location of recreational trails because of their relatively long, linear nature. The natural resources which form the corridors also make such corridors attractive settings for recreational trails.

As shown on Map 97, Waukesha County owns lands, or holds natural resource conservation easements over lands, adjacent to 11 major rivers and streams within the County, including the Ashippun River, Bark River, Fox River, Menomonee River, Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Oconomowoc River, Pebble Brook, Pewaukee River, Scuppernong Creek, and Spring Creek.

**Trails:** The County has developed three off-street hiking and bicycling trails, shown on Map 98. The Bugline Trail extends about 12 miles over a County-owned right-of-way, the right-of-way of a former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad line, from STH 175 in the Village of Menomonee Falls to CTH VV in the Village of Merton.

The New Berlin Trail extends about six miles across the City of New Berlin over a Wisconsin Electric Power Company power transmission line right-of-

<sup>6</sup>The indoor ice arena is located in Naga-Waukee Park. A second indoor ice arena is located at the County's Eble Park.

<sup>7</sup>The County also owns and operates a nine-hole golf course at Moor Downs.



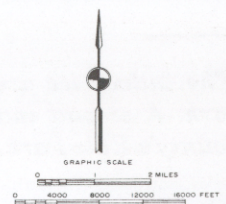
## WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 1995



COUNTY SITE

COUNTY EASEMENT

2 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 149)

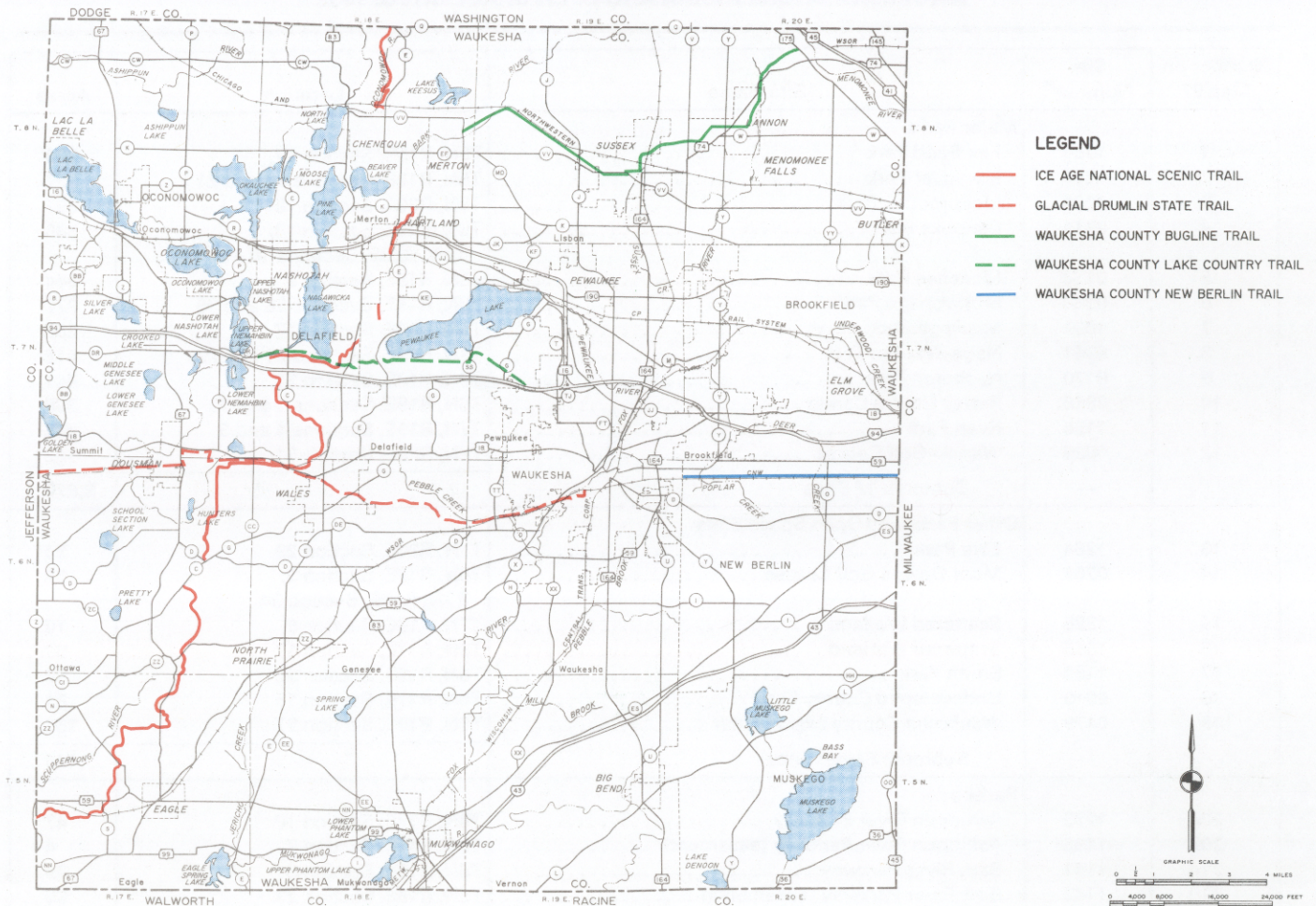


444



Map 98

STATE AND COUNTY TRAILS IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1995



Source: Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission and SEWRPC.

way, the right-of-way of a former TMER&L (The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co.) interurban electric railway line. The New Berlin Trail connects with the Milwaukee County '76 Trail at Greenfield Park in the City of West Allis and is proposed to be extended approximately 1.5 miles in 1996 to connect with Lincoln Avenue in the City of Waukesha.

The Lake Country Trail extends about eight miles over an electric power line transmission and former TMER&L electric interurban railway right-of-way, from the northwestern corporate limit of the City of Waukesha to the western corporate limit of the City of Delafield. The trail is planned to be extended eventually for an additional seven miles to the City of Oconomowoc, for a total length of about 15 miles.

State-Owned Park and Open Space Sites

As indicated in Table 151 and shown on Maps 98 and 99, in 1995 there were 37 State-owned park and open space sites in Waukesha County, encompassing about 15,580 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 37 sites, 29 sites, encompassing about 15,109 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; six sites, encompassing about 370 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and two sites, encompassing about 101 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has acquired large areas of park and open space lands



Table 149

## WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 1995

Number on Map 97	Site Number <sup>a</sup>	Site Name	Location	Acres
<b>Major Parks</b>				
1	1364	Fox Bend Park .....	T5N, R19E, Section 27	209
2	1267	Fox River Park .....	T6N, R19E, Sections 20 and 21	207
3	0024	Menomonee Park .....	T8N, R20E, Section 18	397
4	0711	Minooka Park .....	T6N, R19E, Section 13; T6N, R20E, Sections 18 and 19	535
5	0180	Monches Park .....	T8N, R18E, Section 3	344
6	0980	Mukwonago Park .....	T5N, R18E, Sections 28 and 29	222
7	1091	Muskego Park .....	T5N, R20E, Section 17	209
8	0361	Naga-Waukee Park .....	T7N, R18E, Sections 21 and 22	416
9	0170	Nashotah Park .....	T8N, R18E, Section 31	444
10	0866	Retzer Nature Center .....	T6N, R18E, Sections 1 and 12	338
11	1155	Ryan Park .....	T7N, R19E, Sections 4 and 5	204
12	0039	Wanaki Golf Course .....	T8N, R20E, Section 31	152
--	--	Subtotal: 12 Sites	--	3,677
<b>Other Parks and Open Space Sites</b>				
13	1264	Eble Park .....	T7N, R20E, Section 29	33
14	0761	Moor Downs Golf Course .....	T6N, R19E, Section 3; T7N, R19E, Section 34	77
15	1395	Scattered Wetland .....	T7N, R19E, Section 9	18
16	1365	Scattered Wetland .....	T8N, R17E, Section 17	59
17	1159	Smith Park .....	T5N, R19E, Section 33	53
18	0919	Undeveloped County Land .....	T6N, R17E, Section 18	51
19	0479	Waukesha County Expo Center .....	T7N, R19E, Section 27	152
--	--	Subtotal: Seven Sites	--	443
<b>Parkways</b>				
20A	1273	Ashippun River Parkway .....	T8N, R17E, Section 10	47
20B	1136	Ashippun River Parkway (easement) .....	T8N, R17E, Section 7	4
21A	1141	Bark River Parkway .....	T8N, R19E, Section 3	79
21B	1142	Bark River Parkway (easements) .....	T8N, R18E, Section 23	60
22A	1042	Fox River Parkway .....	T6N, R19E, Sections 17 and 20; T7N, R19E, Sections 25 and 26	404
22B	1149	Fox River Parkway (easements) .....	T5N, R18E, Section 24	16
23A	1363	Genesee Creek Parkway .....	T6N, R18E, Section 26	25
23B	1268	Genesee Creek Parkway (easement) .....	T6N, R18E, Section 26	9
24	1265	Mill Creek Parkway .....	T6N, R19E, Section 25	163
25	1148	Mukwonago River Parkway .....	T5N, R18E, Sections 26 and 34	17
26A	1138	Oconomowoc River Parkway .....	T8N, R18E, Sections 8, 9, and 10	132
26B	1137	Oconomowoc River Parkway (easement) .....	T8N, R18E, Section 10	1
27A	1266	Pebble Brook Parkway .....	T6N, R19E, Section 34	117
27B	1158	Pebble Brook Parkway (easement) .....	T6N, R19E, Section 27	29
28A	1156	Pewaukee River Parkway .....	T7N, R19E, Section 15	210
28B	1157	Pewaukee River Parkway (easements) .....	T7N, R19E, Sections 15 and 22	6
29A	1145	Scuppernong Creek Parkway .....	T7N, R18E, Section 33	50
29B	1146	Scuppernong Creek Parkway (easement) .....	T7N, R18E, Section 33	9
30	1147	Spring Creek Parkway (easement) .....	T6N, R18E, Section 34	29
--	--	Subtotal: 11 Sites <sup>b</sup>	--	1,407
<b>Boat-Access Sites<sup>c</sup></b>				
31	0319	Nemahbin Lake Access .....	T7N, R17E, Section 24	8
32	0911	School Section Lake Access .....	T6N, R17E, Section 17	12
--	--	Subtotal: Two Sites	--	20

Table 149 (continued)

Number on Map 97	Site Number <sup>a</sup>	Site Name	Location	Acres
33 <sup>d</sup>	1335	Trails		
-- <sup>d</sup>	1338	Bugline Trail .....	--	251 <sup>e</sup>
-- <sup>d</sup>	1339	Lake Country Trail .....	--	53 <sup>f</sup>
--	--	New Berlin Trail .....	--	73 <sup>g</sup>
--	--	Subtotal: Three Sites	--	377
--	--	Total: 35 Sites	--	5,924

<sup>a</sup>The site number corresponds to the number in Appendix D, SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, for those sites existing in 1973. Newer sites were assigned numbers sequentially as they were identified.

<sup>b</sup>Each parkway site may consist of one or more parcels of ownership or easement along the waterway.

<sup>c</sup>Waukesha County also operates the Ashippun Lake access site, a 24 acre site owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (see Table 150).

<sup>d</sup>The location of the trail is shown on Map 98. Parcels owned by Waukesha County adjacent to the Bugline Recreation Trail right-of-way are shown on Map 97.

<sup>e</sup>The Bugline Trail is located along the former Milwaukee Road right-of-way. The right-of-way is now owned by Waukesha County. The 12.3 mile trail right-of-way is about 75 feet in width and covers an area of about 112 acres. In addition, there are five parcels of land encompassing approximately 93 acres owned by Waukesha County located along the trail.

<sup>f</sup>The Lake Country Trail is located on lands leased from the Wisconsin Electric Power Company, on existing public streets, and in Naga-Waukee County Park. The approximately 7.8 mile trail includes 4.9 miles of right-of-way on WEPCO lands varying in width from 50 feet to 100 feet, and covers an area of about 53 acres. The remaining 2.9 miles of trails include 1.7 miles through Naga-Waukee County Park and 1.2 miles on existing streets.

<sup>g</sup>The New Berlin Trail is located on lands leased from the Wisconsin Electric Power Company. The 6.0 mile right-of-way is about 100 feet in width and covers an area about 73 acres.

Source: Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission and SEWRPC.

in Waukesha County. These sites were generally acquired for natural resource preservation purposes. Major park sites owned by the Department include the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and Pine Woods Campground, both of which are located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The Department also owns one special regional recreational site, Old World Wisconsin, which is also located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. In addition, the Department owns 16 open space sites, eight boat-access sites, and two trails.

The Glacial Drumlin State Trail is a hiking and bicycling trail located in part in western Waukesha County. The trail is located on the abandoned Chicago & North Western Railway right-of-way and extends approximately 48 miles from the City of

Waukesha on the east to the Village of Cottage Grove in Dane County on the west, with 16 miles located within Waukesha County. The City of Waukesha has moved the former eastern terminus of the trail one additional mile eastward, into the central area of the City.

The Department, in cooperation with the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation and a variety of other private organizations and governmental agencies, has also participated in the land acquisition and development of that portion of the Ice Age Trail within Waukesha County. The Ice Age Trail, which is planned to extend approximately 1,000 miles across the State of Wisconsin following the terminus of the most recent glaciation, was designated as a National Scenic Trail by the United States Congress in 1980. About 29 miles of the proposed 38-mile length of the trail within Waukesha County was

Table 150

## SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN WAUKESHA COUNTY PARKS AND PARKWAYS: 1995

Number on Map 97	Site Name	Acres	Playfield	Campsite	Ice Skating <sup>a</sup>	Golf Course	Picnic Area	Beach	Trail	Boat Launch
	<b>Major Parks</b>									
1	Fox Bend Park .....	209	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Fox River Park .....	207	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
3	Menomonee Park .....	397	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--
4	Minooka Park .....	535	X	--	--	--	X	X	X	--
5	Monches Park .....	344	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
6	Mukwonago Park .....	222	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--
7	Muskego Park .....	209	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--
8	Naga-Waukees Park .....	416	X	X	-- <sup>a</sup>	X	X	X	--	X
9	Nashotah Park .....	444	X	--	--	--	X	X	X	--
10	Retzer Nature Center .....	338	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
11	Ryan Park .....	204	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
12	Wanaki Golf Course .....	152	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
--	Subtotal: 12 Sites	3,677	6	4	2	2	6	5	8	1
	<b>Other Parks and Open Space Sites</b>				-- <sup>a</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
13	Eble Park .....	33	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
14	Moor Downs Golf Course .....	77	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
15	Scattered Wetland .....	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16	Scattered Wetland .....	59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
17	Smith Park .....	53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18	Undeveloped County Land .....	51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
19	Waukesha County Expo Center .....	152	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	Subtotal: Seven Sites	443	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
	<b>Parkways</b>									
20A	Ashippun River Parkway .....	47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20B	Ashippun River Parkway (easement) .....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
21A	Bark River Parkway .....	79	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
21B	Bark River Parkway (easements) .....	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22A	Fox River Parkway .....	404	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22B	Fox River Parkway (easements) .....	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
23A	Genesee Creek Parkway .....	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
23B	Genesee Creek Parkway (easement) .....	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
24	Mill Creek Parkway .....	163	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25	Mukwonago River Parkway .....	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
26A	Oconomowoc River Parkway .....	132	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
26B	Oconomowoc River Parkway (easement) .....	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
27A	Pebble Brook Parkway .....	117	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
27B	Pebble Brook Parkway (easement) .....	29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
28A	Pewaukee River Parkway .....	210	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
28B	Pewaukee River Parkway (easements) .....	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
29A	Scuppernong Creek Parkway .....	50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
29B	Scuppernong Creek Parkway (easement) .....	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
30	Spring Creek Parkway (easement) .....	29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	Subtotal: 11 Sites <sup>b</sup>	1,407	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	<b>Boat-Access Sites</b>									
31	Nemahbin Lake Access .....	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X
32	School Section Lake Access .....	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X
--	Subtotal: Two Sites	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
	<b>Trails</b>									
33 <sup>c</sup>	Bugline Trail .....	251 <sup>d</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
-- <sup>c</sup>	Lake Country Trail .....	53 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
-- <sup>c</sup>	New Berlin Trail .....	73 <sup>f</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
--	Subtotal: Three Sites	377	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
--	Total: 35 Sites	5,924	6	4	2	3	6	5	11	3

<sup>a</sup>Indoor ice-skating facilities are provided at Eble Park and Naga-Waukees Park.

<sup>b</sup>Each parkway site may consist of one or more parcels of ownership or easement along the waterway.

<sup>c</sup>The location of the trail is shown on Map 98. Parcels owned by Waukesha County adjacent to the Bugline Trail right-of-way are shown on Map 97.

<sup>d</sup>The Bugline Trail is located along the former Milwaukee Road right-of-way. The right-of-way is now owned by Waukesha County. The 12.3 mile trail right-of-way is about 75 feet in width, and covers an area of about 112 acres. In addition, there are five parcels of land encompassing approximately 93 acres owned by Waukesha County located along the trail.

<sup>e</sup>The Lake Country Trail is located on lands leased from the Wisconsin Electric Power Company, on existing public streets, and in Naga-Waukees County Park. The approximately 7.8 mile trail includes 4.9 miles of right-of-way on company lands varying in width from 50 feet to 100 feet and covers about 53 acres. The remaining 2.9 miles of trails include 1.7 miles through Naga-Waukees County Park and 1.2 miles on existing streets.

<sup>f</sup>The New Berlin Trail is located on lands leased from the Wisconsin Electric Power Company. The 6.0 mile right-of-way is about 100 feet in width and covers an area about 73 acres in size.

Source: Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission and SEWRPC.



completed by the end of 1995. It should be noted that, unlike the Glacial Drumlin Trail and the trails developed by Waukesha County, the Ice Age Trail is primarily a hiking trail and does not permit bicycling or horseback riding.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation: The Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 1995 owned one wayside and five wetland mitigation sites within the County. The mitigation sites are being restored or enhanced as wetlands or, in upland portions of the sites, as prairies. Four of the sites are located within, or adjacent to, primary environmental corridors and one is located adjacent to a secondary environmental corridor. In each case, restoration or creation of wetland or prairie vegetation is expected to result in an expansion of the corridor to include the mitigation sites.

University of Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin owned two open space sites within the County in 1995: Reuss Woods, encompassing about five acres, located in the Village of Chenequa, and the Waterville Field Station, encompassing about 96 acres, located in the Town of Ottawa. Both the Ice Age Trail and the Glacial Drumlin Trail traverse the Field Station.

#### Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

A comprehensive inventory of natural areas within the County was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 1994 as part of the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan being prepared by the Commission. The inventory systematically identified all remaining high-quality natural areas and critical species habitat then existing within the Region. The natural area and critical species habitat sites are shown on Map 29 and in Table 40 in Chapter III of this report.

Natural areas were classified based upon the natural area classification system developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Three classification categories are used: NA-1, natural areas of Statewide or greater significance, which contain nearly complete and relatively undisturbed plant and animal communities which are believed to resemble closely those of presettlement times; NA-2, natural areas of countywide or regional significance, which contain native biotic communities judged to be of lower than NA-1 significance, either because of evidence of a limited amount of human disturbance or because of limited size; and NA-3, natural areas of local significance, which have been substantially altered by human activities, but which

provide refuge for native plant and animal species that no longer exist in the surrounding area because of land uses and associated activities.

A total of 105 natural areas, encompassing about 13,710 acres, or about 4 percent of the County, were identified by the Regional Planning Commission in Waukesha County in 1994. Of the 105 identified sites, nine were classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 1,775 acres, 30 were classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 4,890 acres, and 66 were classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 7,045 acres.

The inventory also identified a total of 77 critical species habitat sites within Waukesha County, including 22 critical bird habitat sites, one critical mammal habitat site, and 54 critical plant habitat sites. Of the total sites, 12 critical bird habitat sites, one critical mammal habitat site, and 23 critical plant habitat sites were located outside an identified natural area, for a total of 36 critical species habitat sites located outside natural areas.

#### Boat-Access Sites

Boat-access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recreation activities, including motorboating, waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, and fishing. Table 152 provides a list of major lakes in the County and indicates those lakes with publicly owned boat-access sites and lakes with access sites that are owned privately, but which are open to the general public and meet the Department of Natural Resource standards for provision of public boat access. As of the end of 1995, publicly owned access sites were provided at 22, or about 69 percent, of the 32 major lakes within the County. Privately owned access sites open to the public were also provided at six lakes, although Big Muskego Lake is the only lake where no public access is provided in addition to the private access.<sup>8</sup> No public access, by either a public site or a private site open to the public, was available in 1995 at the following nine major lakes:<sup>9</sup> Crooked Lake, Hunters

---

<sup>8</sup>The City of Muskego is currently developing a public boat access to Big Muskego Lake, expected to open in late 1996.

<sup>9</sup>Access sites have been acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but not yet developed, on Hunters Lake and Lake Keesus.

Table 151

## STATE OF WISCONSIN RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE LANDS IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1995

Number on Map 99	Site Number <sup>a</sup>	Site Name	Location	Acres
		Department of Natural Resources Major Parks and Special Sites		
1	0382	Lapham Peak .....	T7N, R18E, Section 29	1,010
2	1406	Old World Wisconsin .....	T5N, R17E, Section 28	.. <sup>b</sup>
3	0915	Ottawa Lake Recreation Area .....	T6N, R17E, Section 34	.. <sup>b</sup>
4	0916	Pine Woods Campground .....	T6N, R17E, Section 23	.. <sup>b</sup>
--	--	Subtotal: Four Sites	--	1,010
		Department of Natural Resources Open Space Sites		
5	0201	Ashippun Lake Remnant Area .....	T8N, R17E, Section 15	24 <sup>c</sup>
6	0910	Kettle Moraine Forest—Southern Unit .....	T6N, R17E, Section 35	9,461 <sup>d</sup>
7	0178	Lake Keesus Remnant Area .....	T8N, R18E, Section 11	42
8	1400	Open Space Site .....	T5N, R17E, Section 06	51
9	1404	Open Space Site .....	T8N, R18E, Section 34	13
10	1128	Scattered Wetland .....	T8N, R17E, Section 16	75
11	0102	Scattered Wetland .....	T8N, R19E, Section 10	18
12	1127	Scattered Wetland .....	T8N, R17E, Section 16	40
13	1126	Scattered Wetland .....	T8N, R17E, Section 04	82
14	1130	Statewide Habitat Area .....	T7N, R18E, Section 05	27
15	1129	Statewide Habitat Area .....	T8N, R17E, Section 29	36
16	1132	Statewide Habitat Area .....	T7N, R17E, Section 24	18
17	1131	Statewide Scientific Area .....	T6N, R18E, Section 28	52
18	0969	Statewide Habitat Area .....	T5N, R17E, Section 35	95
19	1026	Vernon Marsh .....	T5N, R19E, Section 07	4,043
--	--	Subtotal: 15 Sites	--	14,077
		Department of Natural Resources Boat Access Sites		
20	1135	Public Access, Beaver Lake .....	T8N, R18E, Section 28	1
21	1396	Public Access, Eagle Spring Lake .....	T5N, R17E, Section 36	1
22	0314	Public Access, Golden Lake .....	T7N, R17E, Section 31	1
23	1340	Public Access, Lower/Middle Genesee Lakes .....	T7N, R17E, Section 28	7
24	1133	Public Access, Lower Nemahbin .....	T7N, R17E, Section 24	2
25	0219	Public Access, Okauchee Lake .....	T8N, R17E, Section 35	3
26	1367	Public Access, Silver Lake .....	T7N, R17E, Section 09	1
27	1134	Public Access, Upper Genesee Lake .....	T7N, R17E, Section 22	4
--	--	Subtotal: Eight Sites	--	20
.. <sup>e</sup>	1336	Department of Natural Resources Trails		
.. <sup>f</sup>	1337	Glacial Drumlin State Trail .....	--	.. <sup>e</sup>
		Ice Age National Scenic Trail .....	--	.. <sup>f</sup>
--	--	Subtotal: Two Trails	--	--
		Department of Transportation Sites		
30	0316	Wayside .....	T7N, R17E, Section 33	1
31	1405	WisDOT Mitigation Site .....	T8N, R17E, Section 20	94
32	1401	WisDOT Mitigation Site .....	T5N, R20E, Section 33	139
33	1379	WisDOT Mitigation Site .....	T6N, R19E, Section 14	58
34	1402	WisDOT Mitigation Site .....	T7N, R19E, Section 22	31
35	1403	WisDOT Mitigation Site .....	T7N, R19E, Section 15	50
--	--	Subtotal: Six Sites	--	373
		University of Wisconsin Sites		
36	1415	Reuss Pines .....	T8N, R18E, Section 21	5
37	0920	Waterville Field Station .....	T6N, R17E, Section 01	96
--	--	Subtotal: Two Sites	--	101
--	--	Total: 37 Sites	--	15,581

### Footnotes to Table 151 (continued)

<sup>a</sup>The site number corresponds to the number in Appendix D, SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, for those sites existing in 1973. Newer sites were assigned numbers sequentially as they were identified.

<sup>b</sup>Acreages for Old World Wisconsin, the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area, and the Pine Woods Campground are included in the acreage total for the Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit.

<sup>c</sup>Operated by Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission.

<sup>d</sup>Includes only those lands located within Waukesha County.

<sup>e</sup>The Glacial Drumlin State Trail is a 48 mile recreation trail located on the former Chicago & North Western Transportation Company right-of-way in southern Wisconsin. The State portion of the trail in Waukesha County is about 16 miles in length. The City of Waukesha has developed an additional one mile within the County. The location of the trail is shown on Map 98.

<sup>f</sup>The Ice Age National Trail is a 1,000-mile hiking trail through Wisconsin and includes about 38 miles of trail in the Kettle Moraine area of Waukesha County. Approximately 29 miles have been developed in Waukesha County on existing public park and open space lands, public road rights-of-way, private conservancy lands, and easements, with nine miles still proposed for development. The location of the trail is shown on Map 98.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and SEWRPC.

Lake, Lake Keesus, Lower Nashotah Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond. Developed access sites on the Fox River were limited to boat ramps and adjacent parking facilities in Frame Park in the City of Waukesha and Riverside Park in the Village of Big Bend.

#### Private and Other Public Park and Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites

In addition to the County- and State-owned park and open space sites in Waukesha County, in 1995 there were a total of 369 sites owned by city, village, and town governments and school districts, encompassing a total of about 6,720 acres, or about 1.8 percent of the total area of the County. There were an additional five sites, encompassing about 845 acres, owned by nonprofit conservation organizations and 70 privately owned resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites, encompassing about 6,493 acres. These 75 sites combined encompassed about 7,338 acres, or about 2.0 percent of the total area of the County. These sites are listed and mapped in Appendix G of this report.

It should be noted that in 1995 there were three park sites owned by local governments within the County which meet the criteria for major park sites. These three sites include Mitchell Park in the City

of Brookfield, a 533-acre undeveloped park;<sup>10</sup> Wirth Park, also in the City of Brookfield, a 147-acre park encompassing wetlands and a portion of Underwood Creek, as well a nature trail, toboggan hill, swimming pool, and a number of other facilities for intensive recreation; and the New Berlin Hills Golf Course in the City of New Berlin, a 183-acre site providing an 18-hole, regulation golf course and associated facilities.

### OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

The Regional Planning Commission, as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a set of park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives. These park and open space objec-

---

<sup>10</sup>As described later in this chapter, Waukesha County will be acquiring the 173-acre portion of Mitchell Park lying west of Barker Road from the City of Brookfield for development as a new County park. The new park will be known as Fox Brook Park.